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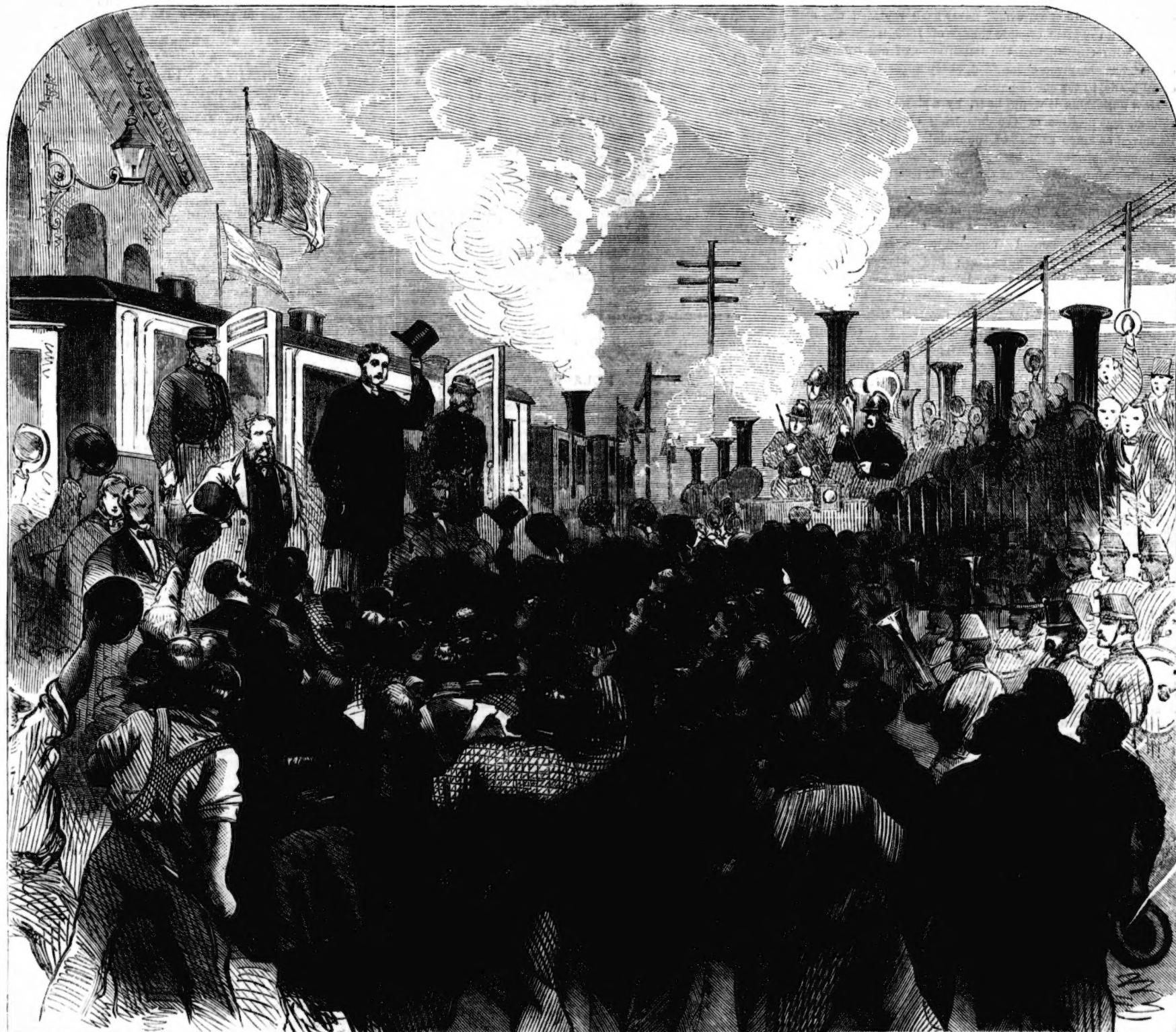
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THE REFORM QUESTION.

PARLIAMENT has now assembled, and when it has got into working order the great question of the day will certainly be that of reform. The most various opinions are in circulation as to what the new bill, when it has been put into a presentable shape, will be really like. Lord Russell has notoriously and avowedly set his heart on the introduction of some sort of reform bill; and the only difficulty about the matter is to decide beforehand what particular abuses or defects in our Constitutional system are in need of reform. We may say, as the Emperor of the French said last week of his own *régime*, that our system of government is not perfect. If it had been perfect, as no one pretends that it was, thirty-five years ago, it would, owing to the natural decay of human institutions, have been imperfect now; and there are, doubtless, many evils in our present system of representation that require remedying.

But it is evidently not easy to determine what political grievances are most urgently in need of redress. This was not the case when the first Reform Bill was introduced. Then there were great cities like Manchester without representatives, and rotten boroughs like Old Sarum, for which their proprietors boasted that they could return anyone to Parliament, from black footmen upwards. If any reformer had been asked in 1830 what it was that he found it so urgently necessary to reform, he might instantly have replied, "a system which withdraws representation from some of the most important communities of the empire and bestows it upon contemptible cliques who possess the eminently-salable privilege of voting in certain antiquated and nearly depopulated townships." All that can be said now by the most strenuous advocates of reform (among whom we do not for a moment class Earl Russell) is that the immense majority of our population take

no part in returning members to Parliament. This, theoretically, may be regarded as an evil; but that, of course, depends upon the theory one happens to hold on the subject of the English Constitution. At least, however, we have now no Manchester unable to raise its voice in the councils of the nation; nor is our indignation raised by the existence—to the extent, at least, which disgraced the representative system prior to 1832—of obscure and corrupt little voting places, which can be bought, sold, or absolutely dictated to according to the absolute will of the local proprietor. Hence the difficulty of getting up what the author of "Coningsby" holds to be so valuable a power in political movements—a "cry"—on behalf of reform. In the exciting times of the Anti-Corn-Law League the advantages of the protectionist system on the one hand, and of the free-trade system on the other, used to be exemplified at elections by means of a small loaf marked one shilling and a big loaf marked sixpence. Here was something to go to the



DEPARTURE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES FROM THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY'S STEELWORKS AT CREWE.

poll upon. Here at least, as Mr. Disraeli would have said in 1846, was a good "cry." But no one believes now that bread will be made cheaper, or that trade in general will be made more free, by an extension of the franchise. Many advantages may result from such a measure. All we maintain is that no special advantage is positively anticipated, and that, while it is certain that a reform bill will be introduced into Parliament, it is not at all clear with what political aim it will be brought in.

We have all been afflicted, not with a passion, but with an itching for reform for many years past. It was in 1859 that the Conservatives brought in their bill for "patching the Constitution," as they themselves would have said (after Shakespeare's "Jack Cade") if the Liberals had introduced the measure. It is true that they wished to patch it with pieces of their own preparing. But what is sauce for the Tory is sauce for the Whig; and, if the Earl of Derby and Mr. Disraeli thought it just to alter the present electoral system with the view of strengthening their party in Parliament, it is not to be supposed that Earl Russell, who has already tried his hand, and with success, at Constitutional changes, will be deterred from repeating the experiment by any superstitious reverence for what actually exists.

Parliamentary assemblies, like individual men, may fairly be judged by their works; and an account of the principal deeds and performances of the reformed Parliament from 1832 until 1865 would be very instructive, just now, to men who wish seriously, and without regard to party interests, to consider in what respect, and with a view to what particular objects, the Parliamentary system of the present day might be altered. It was not the reformed Parliament that emancipated the Roman Catholics, but it was the reformed Parliament that emancipated the Jews. It would be idle to ascribe the latter change solely to the superior liberality of the House of Commons, as elected under the new system; for both Houses of Parliament are influenced, more sensibly even than other public bodies, by public opinion; and the emancipation of the Jews was not decreed by the Legislature until the educated opinion of England had already virtually emancipated them. But it may, we think, be looked upon as certain that the unreformed Parliament, constituted, as it was, almost exclusively of landed proprietors and representatives of the landed interest, would never have repealed the corn laws; and the great organic change of 1832, while it has led to the full recognition of the importance of our commercial classes, has also given cheap food, cheap apparel, cheap things of all kinds, to the entire nation.

How admirable it would be, if, by a simple Parliamentary reform, the position of the labouring classes could now be improved as much as that of the middle and, above all, the commercial classes, has been improved through the indirect, or rather remote, action of the bill of 1832! Difficult as it may be to point out what particular reforms are needed in our Parliamentary system, it is certain that pauperism exists to a frightful extent in all our agricultural districts. The landed proprietors, instead of serfs, have paupers on their estates; and whereas the serfs of the Middle Ages had to be maintained in sickness and poverty by the masters for whom they had worked, the pauper rustics of the present day are thrown without ceremony upon a whole parish for support. It is very easy to say that pauperism is for the most part caused, not by bad laws, but by bad morals. That may be quite true. But at the same time, if any one kind of political legislation is now needed more particularly than another, it is legislation in favour of our poorer classes. If Parliament can ever be reformed to the extent of seeing and feeling this, it will indeed have been reformed to some purpose.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES IN STAFFORDSHIRE.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have been paying a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland at Lilleshall, Salop, and Trentham, Staffordshire, in both of which neighbourhoods they have met with a most hearty reception. Their Royal Highnesses went to Lilleshall first, where a round of festivities, including dinners, balls, hunting parties, &c., awaited them. On the 26th ult. the Prince of Wales, attended by Major G. H. Grey, and accompanied by the Duke of Sutherland, Earl Vane, the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Sefton, the Marquis of Stafford, Earl Grosvenor, Lord Belgrave, and the Hon. H. L. Bourke, left Lilleshall House shortly after ten o'clock, proceeding in the Duke of Sutherland's private carriage to the Donnington station of the Shropshire Union of the London and North-Western Railway. At Donnington the Royal party entered a handsome saloon-carriage, and the special train started at about ten minutes to eleven for Crewe, via Hadley Junction and Wellington to Shrewsbury, which latter place was reached at a quarter past eleven. The special proceeded slowly through the station, and the large number of persons present on the platform cheered enthusiastically. From Shrewsbury to Crewe the Royal travellers proceeded through some beautiful scenery, the Welsh mountains being observable on the right. At Crewe the platform was not densely crowded, and there was no cheering. The train conveyed the Royal and distinguished passengers quite into the heart of the extensive steelworks of the London and North-Western Railway, and stopped at a raised platform in front of the engine-house, where the Royal party alighted, and were received by Mr. J. Tootal, one of the directors of the London and North-Western Railway; Mr. Chance, chairman of the engineering committee; and Mr. Ramsbottom, the manager of these works. His Royal Highness was conducted through the various departments of the works by Mr. Ramsbottom, and witnessed the operation of rolling steel plates and rails, steel-sawing, and the double steam-hammer. One of the operations performed in presence of his Royal Highness, and in which he appeared to take much interest—that of "bossing" wheels—is shown in our Engraving on page 69. After the inspection the Prince of Wales proceeded to Mr. Ramsbottom's house, and partook of luncheon. On leaving the works, the party found a considerable assembly waiting to witness their departure, and the Prince was greeted with loud and repeated cheering, which he graciously acknowledged. His Royal Highness, with the rest of the party, afterwards proceeded by special train to Whitmore, and thence in private carriages to Trentham, the seat of the Duke of Sutherland.

The arrival of the Royal visitors at the Duke of Sutherland's palatial seat in Staffordshire was attended with demonstrations of

such a spontaneous character as the enthusiasm of the people suggested. It had been arranged for the Princess to have been escorted on her journey from Lilleshall to Trentham, via Newport and Eccleshall, by the Shropshire and Staffordshire Yeomanry, but this was abandoned at the last moment. Her Royal Highness, with the Duchess of Sutherland, proceeded on the journey in an open carriage, drawn by four horses and preceded by outriders, and accompanied by other carriages, containing Lady Constance Grosvenor, the Countess of Morton, Countess Vane, Lady Gertrude Talbot, Lady Adelaide Talbot, and Viscountess Hill. At the pretty little town of Eccleshall, where is the seat of the Bishop of Lichfield, a stoppage took place for a short time to give refreshment to the horses, and loud applause greeted the appearance of the Royal lady. Flags, evergreens, and floral decorations, triumphal arches, and raised platforms occupied by the beauty and fashion of the district, and crowds of people overflowing with enthusiasm, testified to the kindly feeling entertained towards the Princess of Wales. In the pleasant park at Trentham the principal entrance was surrounded by a large number of persons, who had been congregated from an early hour in the afternoon, and, on the arrival of the carriage and four soon after four o'clock, had the gratification of seeing the Princess. The Prince of Wales, with the Duke of Sutherland and a large party, arrived about a quarter of an hour later, and the Staffordshire people gave his Royal Highness a most hearty reception. Their Royal Highnesses left Trentham on Tuesday morning for Sandringham, Norfolk.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

A despatch from Baron de Malaret, French Minister at Florence, dated Jan. 2, 1866, describes an interview between his Excellency and General della Marmora relative to the loyal execution of the September Convention, upon which a doubt had been cast by the circular of Cardinal Antonelli. General della Marmora said that no one had the right to suppose that the Italian Government had any intention of failing to fulfil its engagements under the September Convention. Baron de Malaret stated that France, in signing the Convention, intended to assure the co-existence in Italy of two distinct sovereignties—that of the Pope reduced to its present limits, and that of the kingdom of Italy.

SPAIN.

The decree for raising the state of siege in Madrid has not yet appeared, though order is said to be restored throughout the country, a few insurgents alone remaining in the provinces of Barcelona and Tarragona.

Two Chilean privateers have appeared off the Spanish coast, and the Government has sent a frigate in pursuit of them. Intelligence from Lima to the 21st ult. announced that diplomatic relations have been interrupted between Spain and Peru. The Ministers to Chili and Peru have returned to Spain.

The draught of an Address to the Queen, read in a sitting of the Senate on the 25th ult., expresses regret at the breaking out of hostilities between Spain and Chili, but hopes that, after the refusal of the latter to satisfy the Spanish claims, the Queen's Government will cause the honour and dignity of Spain to be respected. The Address also expresses the satisfaction of the Senate at the domestic reforms announced by the Government.

ITALY.

The bill for the suppression of religious corporations in Italy has been delivered to the members of the Chamber of Deputies. It provides annuities for members of the religious bodies from the State. Of course the State takes the property of the religious corporation.

AUSTRIA.

The Vienna journals announce that Austria has permitted the Swedish Consulate-General in Trieste to serve as the Consulate for all the inhabitants of the kingdom of Italy. The semi-official journals regard this as a further step towards reconciliation with Italy.

Intelligence from Venice announces that the Central Congregation of that city has resolved that the reforms proposed by the Austrian Government in Venetia are capable of being carried out. The resolution stated, however, that the present province of Venice should be maintained and the residence of some of the Vice-Delegates changed.

PRUSSIA.

The proposal of the State Procurator to institute proceedings against Deputies Tweeten and Frenzel on account of their former speeches in the Diet, rejected by both Courts of First Instance upon the ground that, by the Constitution, members cannot be called to account for their speeches in the chambers, has now been acceded to by the Supreme Court. That tribunal has decided that such a charge can be entertained.

POLAND.

The Emperor has addressed a rescript to the Governor of Warsaw promulgating a series of educational measures to be carried out in Poland. Superior and elementary schools are to be established for Poles, Greeks, and Russians, and separate schools for Germans and Lithuanians. Day schools will also be opened for girls. All scholars will be taught the Polish and Russian history and languages. The religious instruction will be intrusted to the regular clergy of each respective denomination.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 20th ult. An attempt had been made in the Senate by Mr. Chandler to interrupt the amicable relations between England and the United States. The hon. senator proposed the following resolution:—“Whereas England refuses to settle the Alabama claims, the President is requested to withdraw the American Minister from England and issue a proclamation of national non-intercourse.” An animated debate appears to have taken place on the proposition, which resulted in the resolution being tabled (laid aside) by a vote of 25 against 12. The House of Representatives had passed the bill granting unconditional negro suffrage in the district of Columbia by a vote of 116 to 54.

Mr. Johnson had relieved the provisional Governor of Florida and had recognised the Governor Elect.

A filibustering expedition, commanded by an American General, was reported to have crossed the Rio Grande from the Texas side and captured Bagdad, on the Mexican side. A Mexican and a French gun-boat opened fire on the marauders and compelled them to take refuge in the upper part of the town, a position which they still held. General Sheridan had telegraphed from New Orleans disavowing all knowledge of the attack on Bagdad. He had ordered all his subordinates to preserve strict neutrality, and disbelieved the popular account of the affair, which he considered a sensation story.

The Fenian Senate have called their congress to assemble at Pittsburgh, on the 19th of February, to determine the military measures to be adopted. Twelve ex-Federal military officers have returned from Ireland, and reported to the Senate that the people there were powerless without arms, and were complaining of O'Mahony's policy. The officers were compelled to return to America, fearing arrest. General Sweeny, the Fenian Secretary of War, had joined the senate organisation, and had issued a call for prompt military action.

It was rumoured that arrangements had been completed at Washington for continuing the Reciprocity Treaty beyond March next.

INDIA.

Advices received in Paris from Bombay give an account of disturbances which had taken place, at the end of December, in the valley of Loond Kar, on the frontier of the Panjab. The inhabitants of three important villages entered the English territory, and, after committing various acts of pillage, immediately recrossed the frontier. The robbers were pursued by the English troops and the booty was recovered. The three villages were also destroyed and the ringleaders captured.

THE OUTBREAK IN JAMAICA.

LETTERS from the special correspondents of the daily papers are beginning to arrive from Jamaica. The *Times* of Tuesday contained one from the gentleman who represents that journal, written three days after his arrival in the island, from which we make the subjoined extracts:—

ARRIVAL OF SIR HENRY STORKS.—VIEWS OF PARTIES.

Sir H. Storks reached Kingston on the evening of the 6th of January, with his Aide-de-Camp, Captain Baring, R.A., and the secretary of the commission, Mr. C. S. Roundell. The appointment of his Excellency was already known throughout the island, the news having come by way of New York. But no one anticipated that Sir Henry would reach Jamaica so soon after his appointment as *interim Governor*. There were groups of eager spectators on the wharf when the steamer drew alongside. The negroes shook hands, and looked triumphant. “Now we shall have justice,” some were heard to say, and they raised a cheer as his Excellency drove off. The whites who were present seemed anxious and depressed. They did not conceal their regret at what they regarded as the “humiliation” of Mr. Eyre, and their fear at the effect which the interposition of the Home Government might have upon the excitable black population. This feeling is still uppermost with many, but all welcome inquiry, and agree that the experience and discretion of Sir Henry Storks, his military promptitude and known administrative ability, furnish the best guarantees for good government and good order so long as he remains in the island. On another point the whites with whom I have conversed are singularly unanimous. No one of them entertains the least doubt that Mr. Eyre will be triumphantly “acquitted.” The doubts and denunciations at home can find no echo here; and this nearly universal agreement—for such it seems to be—upon a subject which in England has produced such wide disagreement is one of the first things noted by a new-comer. Even those Jamaica politicians who had been determined opponents of Mr. Eyre's administration, and who at another time would have rejoiced at his removal from the colony, now rally round him, express their gratitude for his efficient measures in suppressing the rebellion, and protest against the injustice to which they declare he has been treated in return by the Imperial Government. One of the principal newspapers at Kingston, the *Colonial Standard*, which repeatedly urged Mr. Eyre's recall before the outbreak, now supports him warmly, and says that the blind sympathy of certain philanthropists in England and the imprudent interference of the British Government will lead the ignorant negro in the West Indies to think that he may perpetrate any outrage with impunity. In conversation I have ventured to suggest that, perhaps, if the negro can be convinced he will have justice from England, such a conviction may form the best security against future outrage by him. But generally the feeling here is that the mass of the negroes will misapprehend any reproof given from England to the head of the colony, and will view it as giving them license to do just as they like, and to lord it over the white man. It must be confessed that the negro does not seem able to enjoy his triumph quietly or discreetly; and I am not surprised that their exultation and exaggerated talk should have irritated the whites, used to command, and ill able to brook what they regard as a mortification inflicted on the superior race. The black men were saying loudly that Governor Eyre was to be hanged, and that the chief authorities here would be sent to the Penitentiary. A negro called out to an officer who was passing, “You won't oppress the blacks any longer—new Governor come;” and similar expressions flung at the whites have not tended to allay their exasperation. Here, in Kingston, at least, many of the negroes seem intelligent. They read their newspapers in the streets, when, perhaps, they should be at work; and I believe the articles in the English papers favourable to their cause are regularly reproduced here and eagerly looked for. In some cases they are read and commented on in the native chapels. The dangerous effects of this literature upon the impressionable and ignorant blacks is strenuously insisted on here.

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW GOVERNOR.

On the day after his arrival Sir Henry Storks was waited on by Mr. Eyre, by the Commander of the Forces, Major-General O'Connor, C.B., and the heads of departments; and every facility being offered by Mr. Eyre, his Excellency was sworn in on the 7th ult. The ceremony took place in Spanish Town, at the King's House, the official residence of the Governor, and was made as impressive as such a ceremony could be. The members of the Privy Council met at one o'clock. A guard of honour, supplied by the 1st West India Regiment and the volunteers, lined the approaches to the Audience-hall; and through the avenue thus formed his Excellency and Mr. Eyre passed together, followed by Major-General O'Connor, the heads of departments, and the Privy Council, to a room leading from the Audience-hall. There the commission was read and acknowledged, after which the procession returned into the hall, where the public were admitted, the Clerk of the Council again read the commission, and the oaths were administered to Sir Henry Storks by the Chief Justice of Jamaica, Sir Bryan Edwards. The usual salute was then fired by the Volunteer Artillery in the square, and some amusement was afforded by the fact that, the guns being planted too close to the house, nearly all the windows were broken. A few spectators, among whom were some black and coloured people, witnessed the ceremony in the Audience-hall, and appeared to take great interest in the inauguration of the new Governor.

MR. EYRE AND THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COLONY.

Mr. Eyre has been staying for some time in the hills at Flamstead, about thirteen miles from Kingston. I regret to say his Excellency looks ill and haggard; he is suffering greatly in health from his long residence in a tropical climate, and probably still more from the cares and anxieties of the last four months. I believe it had been his wish, when order was completely restored throughout the island, to be relieved from his duties here, and to enjoy some rest at home. This was, of course, before he knew of the strong feeling excited in England and the steps taken by her Majesty's Government; but he will now, of course, remain here during the inquiry. One source of permanent anxiety both to the present and the late Governor is removed. The last packet will have taken to England the news that the Jamaica Legislature has committed political suicide, and has thrown upon the Ministry and Parliament at home the responsibility of declaring what shall be the future government of the colony. On this point, again, you do not hear a dissentient voice. By the jobbery of some of its members and the perversity and bitterness of others the House of Assembly had made itself an unmitigated nuisance to every man of education and position in Jamaica. No one says a good word for it; there was no confidence in its measures, or in the prosperity of the island, so long as it existed to wrangle through the session, and bar the road against sound and comprehensive legislation. Among its members were some able and public-spirited men, but they could rarely hold their own against the office-seekers and the unscrupulous partisans to whom public spirit was a thing unknown. Much stronger language than any I care to repeat is used without reserve by men of position here when speaking of this body, and all agree that it never passed an Act so beneficial to the colony as that by which it accomplished self-destruction. “If that be the only result, the victims of the Morant Bay outbreak will not have perished in vain.” Such expressions are common here; but great things are also hoped for from the labours of the Royal Commission and the attention which the affairs of the island are now attracting in England. An impartial inquiry into the state of the colony and the relations of the different races here seems to be looked to confidently by all, the white people believing that their motives and acts will be thereby appreciated and freed from suspicion at home, the blacks that their just grievances will be remedied. This is one of the most hopeful symptoms that one can trace, and amid so much that is gloomy, and that suggests decay in things material as well as in things political, it is agreeable to note any hopeful symptom.

THE CASE OF MR. GORDON.

Less attention is bestowed here upon the case of Mr. Gordon than might be expected from the prominence assigned to it in England,

Particular stress is laid, however, upon the statement made in his last letter that he knew nothing of Paul Bogle—a statement which is declared to be notoriously untrue. The two men were in frequent communication, and knew each other perfectly. Gordon died very much in debt; and one of the documents found among his papers was a list of signatures, over 150 in number, headed by that of Paul Bogle himself. Several other black men, accused of complicity in the rebellion and executed as rebel leaders, figure in the same list. No writing is annexed to it, and the list may have been a harmless one, in connection with some legitimate political organisation; but the fact is pointed to as a suspicious one. I have been shown a bible, which was found in Paul Bogle's chapel at Stoney-gut, on its capture by the troops after the rising; and the inscription in Gordon's handwriting, partly rubbed out, but still to be read, is this:—"Presented by George W. Gordon to Mr. Paul Bogle, with —— wishes." The date is Nov. 2, 1862, and there is a reference to Isaiah, chap. xxx., verse 18. The gift was not a costly one. It was a bible printed by the British and Foreign Society, and bears their stamp, "Sold under cost price—ten-pence," upon the cover. The writing, if genuine, clearly shows that Gordon knew Paul Bogle perfectly well. It is only fair, however, to give an explanation which is offered by Gordon's friends here. They say that the statement in the letter was an inadvertence excusable in a man who was to die in an hour or two, and that what Gordon must have meant to say was not that he knew nothing of Paul Bogle, but that he knew nothing of Bogle's complicity in any outbreak or rebellion. This is a point on which Englishmen are as competent to offer an opinion as anyone on the spot. A gentleman who has seen the original letter assures me that there is no hiatus, and that, whatever their meaning, the words are clear. Setting aside the first presumption, that a man just about to die would tell the truth, it appears unlikely that Gordon should at that moment invent a clumsy lie which hundreds of witnesses could disprove. But another statement has reached me which, if accurate, as I believe it to be, proves conclusively that Gordon could not have meant what his written words express. During the court-martial he admitted, I believe, that Bogle was a political friend of his; and it is not likely that he would have denied in his letter what he had admitted verbally. As yet the evidence upon which Gordon was hung has been kept back here; but some notes taken at the trial by one of the local reporters have been sent to England, and may very likely have been published there. It is necessary, therefore, to mention that, as a record of the evidence upon which the conviction was founded by the Court and approved by Brigadier-General Nelson, such a report must be quite incomplete, because it does not comprise documents which were chiefly relied on for the prosecution. This caution is the more necessary because the publication of the notes taken by the reporter will be a violation of the pledge given to the military authorities, and under which alone they allowed reporters to be present.

FEELING OF THE WHITE POPULATION ON THE LATE EVENTS.
With reference both to Gordon's case and the general measures taken in suppressing the outbreak, white people here complain loudly that in England too little allowance has been made for the position of difficulty in which Mr. Eyre and the military authorities were placed, and for the danger to which the white and coloured population were hourly exposed. This is a point on which, so soon after my arrival in the colony and pending inquiry, I offer no opinion, and simply reflect the very strong views of those around me. I am assured that the blacks in this place did not conceal their exultation when the news arrived of the massacre at Morant Bay, and that their looks and words were such as to inspire the greatest distrust of what they would do if the rebellion were allowed to gain ground. "Hurrah for Gordon!" one negro was heard to say; "he shave off old Ketelholdt's head!" There is something in the retort which an Englishman hears on all sides:—"It is very well for people at home to talk of panic fears; but suppose they had been out here—a mere handful of whites in the midst of disaffected and inflammable race, with barbarous murders enacted close by—how soon to be repeated in our midst no one could tell." Speeches made by Gordon in the Legislative Assembly are quoted to show that he favoured revolt. Some of those delivered in 1861 are now before me in the authorised reports. A few of the passages relied on will suffice. "Per se," as the hon. member for St. Catherine said, "the people would be quite right to break out into open rebellion. If an illegality is permitted in the Governor an illegality may be permitted on the part of the people. . . . I have never seen an animal more voracious for cruelty and power than the present Governor of Jamaica. . . . If we are to be governed by such a Governor much longer the people will have to fly to arms and become self-governing." In England one would not incline to attach over much importance to such passages thus separated from their contexts, and Gordon always based this speaking upon the assumption that the Governor or his Council were themselves violating the law. But upon ignorant negroes—it is urged—this inflammatory language might have a dangerous effect, and they would care little for the constitutional principle which Gordon professed to keep in view as a justification for his harangues. Gordon spoke for two hours in defending himself before the court-martial; and he admitted, I am told, that the circumstantial evidence against him was very strong, though he added that he could not help that. Men of position who have seen the whole evidence say that it is strong and conclusive. Upon this point I can only repeat what is told me.

EXAGGERATED REPORTS.

While the colonists complain that sufficient allowance is not made for their position at the time of the outbreak, they equally complain of the exaggerated stories upon which they say the public feeling in Exeter Hall and elsewhere was founded. So far as I have been able to investigate them, many of these stories had their origin in the colony itself, but do not deserve any greater credit on that account. Even at this interval one has to be most cautious in believing what one hears; close inquiry often discloses but a small residuum of truth in statements which at first look very formidable and very authentic. But, leaving all these points to be dealt with fully by the Royal Commission, it seems only fair to single out one or two on which, if people here, who ought to know, are right, many people at home are sadly misinformed. In the first place, every Englishman will be pleased to learn that the number of negroes who have been put to death has been grossly exaggerated in England, principally on the strength—it is only just to repeat—of unreliable and excited letters written, and often printed, in Jamaica. I am assured that, taking into account those who were hanged, shot, or slain by soldiers and Maroons in the bush, the number of negroes who have lost their lives has not been more than 400, and that 500 is an outside estimate. Lamentable enough was even this loss of life; but when mention is made of "miles of dead bodies," and "the slain are counted by thousands," it is right that no time should be lost in declaring these statements to be due only to a fertile imagination. Much has been said in England about the case of "Paul Bogle's valet," and the impression is that he was a youth of tender age, who denounced anybody and everybody while in mortal terror for his own neck. The fact is, that he was more than twenty-two years old, is married, and has two children. He was called "a boy," as even old men here are when in service. Bogle gave him a gun, which, according to his own account, he threw down a gully, and after being taken by our troops, Colonel Hobbs allowed him to go free. He then volunteered to accompany the detachment, and, as he knew Bogle and the other ringleaders well, his services were accepted; but he was warned—in all probability, roughly warned—that, if he attempted to mislead the detachment, or to run away, or to lie, he would be shot. All the men whom he pointed out as rebels were duly tried by court-martial, and those executed were found guilty upon what was believed to be sufficient evidence. I am told that, so far from denouncing people by wholesale, he actually saved many persons whose lives might otherwise have been in jeopardy. We shall hear and see more of him hereafter; and I offer no opinion

as to the value of his statements or the extent to which they were corroborated. I believe he said that he saw hundreds of negroes take the oath. In point of fact, two oaths seem to have been administered—one of them pledging to secrecy, the other binding to some plan of action; but, though many of the negroes admitted before execution that they had taken these oaths, none would disclose their terms.

ADDRESSES TO MR. EYRE.

The magistracy, clergy, and other inhabitants of the parish of Trelawny have presented an address to Governor Eyre, sympathising with him in regard to his heavy responsibilities, and expressing the greatest pleasure in stating that his Excellency discharged them with so much wisdom, energy, promptitude, and decision of purpose—from no selfish consideration, but under a deep sense, we feel assured, of your Excellency's duty to our beloved Sovereign, to the loyal inhabitants of this island, and all its best interests.

To which Mr. Eyre made the following reply:—

Mr. Custos, Rev. Gentlemen, and Gentlemen.—It would at all times afford me sincere pleasure to receive such gratifying assurance of the good opinion and approval of the numerous and highly respectable and influential gentlemen of Trelawny who have signed the address presented to me by your respected Custos; but it comes doubly welcome to me at a time when the acts to which you refer, undertaken from a deep sense of my duty to my Sovereign and to the colonists of this island, and with a full and anxious appreciation of the painful responsibility of my position, have been so maliciously misrepresented and so unjustly maligned by a section of the English press, and by parties at home who have no sympathies with their fellow-countrymen suffering under the atrocious barbarities inflicted by savages because those savages have a black skin; that they do not hesitate to call the just retribution which overtook the ruthless rebels of St. Thomas's-in-the-East by the names of "murder" and "massacre." It was trying enough, Gentlemen, to have to encounter the harassing and anxious duty of putting down the rebellion and taking steps to preserve peace and tranquillity in the other districts of the colony; but it is very hard and most unexpected to have to rebut accusations founded upon exaggeration, misrepresentation, and untruth. I shall have much pleasure in transmitting your address to her Majesty's Government as a proof that in the island, where the actual circumstances ought to be best known, and where the magnitude and imminency of the danger to the entire colony can best be appreciated, the foul aspersions disseminated by a portion of the English press are unjust and undeserved. I thank you, Gentlemen, most gratefully for your loyal address and for the hearty expression of your willingness to co-operate with me in any measures necessary for the protection of life and property and the peace and welfare of the island at large. On my part, I would assure you that I shall ever be ready to do my duty faithfully, and will never shrink from assuming any amount of responsibility which the public safety requires me to undertake.

Addresses from other parts of the island to the same effect as that from Trelawny were being forwarded to Mr. Eyre almost daily.

THE ARREST OF MR. GORDON IN KINGSTON.

The following narrative of the arrest of Mr. G. W. Gordon in Kingston, Jamaica, is from the pen of Dr. Bowerbank, Custos of Kingston:—

About mid-day the Governor, being anxious to return to Morant Bay, proposed to drive up to the General's to take leave of him. As we went into the house a policeman whispered to me that Mr. Gordon was inside. As we entered we found the General, Mr. Gordon, and Dr. Fiddes standing up; the General and Mr. Gordon were conversing. On seeing the Governor enter, Mr. Gordon turned towards him and said, "Oh! your Excellency." The Governor replied, "I regret, Mr. Gordon, I can hold no communication with you." On which Mr. Gordon said, "Why?" His Excellency replied, "Because you are a prisoner." Mr. Gordon answered, "What for?" The Governor gave no answer, but turned to me, I immediately arrested Mr. Gordon in the name of the Queen on a charge of treason. As I laid my hand on his shoulder he got very pale and trembled much. I told him to accompany me, which he did. As we got to the door he said, "I wish to see my wife to take leave of her." I went back and asked the Governor if I should take him to see Mrs. Gordon. He replied, "Do as you think proper: he is in your custody, and you are held responsible for his being taken down and put on board the Wolverine." I then said to Mr. Gordon, "You shall see your wife if you will give me your parole to go quietly with me." He said he would. I asked him where his wife was. He told me, at a friend's in North-street. He then got into my carriage, and I drove him there. In driving up he asked me where I was to take him, and I told him on board the Wolverine. He asked when she was to sail. I said, "Directly; her steamer is up, and the Governor is anxious to be off." He asked whether she was bound. I said to Morant Bay. He then inquired how long it took to go there. I replied, "About five hours." He asked in what capacity he was to go. I said, "A prisoner charged with treason." He then exclaimed, "Well, justly or unjustly, I shall die to-day this evening." I said, "No, Gordon, it will not be so; you will be tried, and if you are innocent of the charges against you, you need have no fear." He repeated, "I shall die this night. It is an unfortunate chain of circumstances, but I have nothing to do with it." When we got to the house I was about alighting, when he said, "You sit here while I go in." I replied, "Oh, no, Gordon, I must go with you." We then entered the garden, and on knocking at the front door Mrs. Gordon opened it. We entered, when he embraced her and said, "Here I am, a prisoner in custody. I am to be taken to Morant Bay at once, to die this evening." He then suddenly walked into the next room, and took up from the table a packet of papers. I went up to him and asked him to deliver them to me. He said, "No; they are my property—my post letters." I said, "You must let me have them." He said, "No, he would not." I then took hold of his hand, and gently took them from him and put them in the breast-pocket of my coat. He then said, "If you will not give me to me, at any rate let me see the directions on them." I told him I regretted I could not oblige him. He seemed annoyed, and said, "You exceed your duty." He walked back to the front piazza, where he had left Mrs. Gordon standing. Mrs. Gordon said, "George, give me your watch." He immediately took it off and handed it to her. He then asked me if he might take any clothes with him. I said, certainly, they should be taken on board for him. Mrs. Gordon then gave him a small black bag, saying, "That contains all you have here." He then said to me, "Shall I want the money?" I said, "No; you will be on board a ship of war, and will be provided with everything." He then asked Mrs. Gordon if she wished his pocket-book. This was a portmanteau, which he handed to her. He then went into a bed-room, where I followed him. He turned, and said to me, "What, you follow me?" I replied, "Excuse me, Gordon; where you go I must go." He then came back, and suddenly walked rapidly to the back of the house. Mrs. Gordon told him to come back. I followed him. He took leave of an elderly lady, saying, "That is all I wanted," and came back. I then said, "Come, Gordon, it is time for us to go." He again embraced Mrs. Gordon and wished her "Good-by!" Mrs. Gordon then said to me, "May I ask as a favour of you that you give me any information you can about Mr. Gordon?" I said, "I promise to give you all the information I am at liberty to communicate." I then took the bag of clothes and went out into the garden. Mrs. Gordon and Gordon followed, and here he again embraced her, and followed me out into the street. When he got to the carriage he said, "I will take the bag." I said, "Oh, no; you shall have it when you get on board." He laughed and said, "You take good care of me." I then drove him to the General's, but found the Governor had left. At this time a number of persons were collecting in the streets. As I turned out of Duke-street to the General's door I saw a couple of troopers on horseback. I sent my servant to tell them to come to me. As I turned round into Duke-street they came up. I told them to accompany me down to the Ordnance Wharf. We proceeded at a rapid rate. When near the bottom of Duke-street a great crowd appeared, and a number of people running. I heard some one behind me give the word, "Troopers, draw pistols!" I turned my head and saw Colonel Hunt and Captain Johnston. The former called out, "Get on quick!" As we drove down Duke-street Gordon said to me, "I wish to consult my lawyer, Mr. Airey." I said, "I have no authority to take you there. When you get to the Ordnance Wharf you can notify your desire to the Governor." When we came opposite to Mr. Airey's office he repeated, "I wish to see my lawyer. I wrote to him this morning." As we got down to the crowd he began bowing and taking off his hat, and saying, "Good-by." He asked me if he might speak to them. I said, "No." He replied, "It could do no harm." I said, "Gordon, do not attempt it." In Port Royal-street the crowd was very great. We reached the Ordnance Wharf, the troopers clearing the way.

As soon as we drove inside the gate Colonel Hunt ordered the prisoner to alight. He did so, first thanking me for my kindness. He was then taken in charge by the two troopers, and was removed on board the Wolverine, which was anchored about half a mile from the Ordnance Wharf. Just then the Governor drove up to embark; he requested me to accompany him to the vessel, which I did. While on board I saw Gordon sitting at the stern of the vessel reading a book, with a marine or sailor guarding him. I do not think he saw me. Soon after I left the vessel, as she started, in company with Captain Cooper, the three members of the Executive Council, the Hon. E. M. Jordan, and others.

In driving down to the Ordnance Wharf, I omitted to mention that Gordon told me he had been ill, and that in consequence he had not been able to attend the vestry at St. Thomas's-in-the-East on the day of the massacre; that he had been taking medicine from Dr. Meyer and Dr. Fiddes; and that Mr. Airey knew all about it. All along Gordon appeared very anxious to impress upon everyone that he had been ill at that time. There is no doubt that at the time he was moving about between Cherry-gardens and Kingston.

George W. Gordon, in my humble opinion, ought to have been arrested and sent to Morant Bay long before he was.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

BRECON.—The Conservative and the Radical candidates have both withdrawn; and it is likely that Lord Brecknock, Liberal, will be returned without opposition.

SUNDERLAND.—Mr. Fenwick, the newly-appointed Lord of the Admiralty, is encountering opposition at Sunderland. Alderman Candish, Radical, who was defeated at the late general election, is again a candidate; and a keen contest is anticipated.

WINDSOR.—Among the election petitions confidently spoken of for the coming Session was one against Mr. Labouchere and Sir Henry Hoare, the Liberal members for Windsor, whose return was said, by their Conservative opponents, to have been materially aided by means against which the Corrupt Practices Act resolutely sets its face. We now learn that the petition is not likely to be proceeded with, an arrangement having been made that one of the sitting members shall apply for the Chiltern Hundreds; Mr. Vansittart, the senior of the defeated Conservatives, being allowed to come in without party opposition.

THE NEW TOWNHALL AT HULL.

A NEW, more commodious, and more becoming building, in which the municipal business of the town might be transacted under the same roof, or within the same inclosure, conveniently, comfortably, and efficiently, has been desiderated in Hull ever since, we may say, Edward I. called the borough into existence. Kingston-upon-Hull has had its great men; but never until now has it been in a position to boast of possessing aught above mediocrity in the way of buildings. Within the past few years, however, there have sprung up several noble and beautiful structures, of which the townspeople may well be proud, and which they may point out to strangers as so many indications of growing prosperity and improving taste. Chief among these new and beautiful erections, and towering high above them, is the magnificent Townhall, which opened with unbounded éclat on the 25th ult.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

The morning, which had been ushered in in a somewhat sombre manner, shortly before eleven o'clock broke most splendidly, and the streets were speedily lined with groups of well-dressed people, whose smiling faces betokened the prevailing feeling of pleasantness and good-humour. The streams of persons of all descriptions poured steadily and undeviatingly in one direction—and that the vicinity of the Townhall. The nearer this neighbourhood was approached the gayer became the scene. Flags flaunted from the houses in Whitefriargate, Market-place, Scale-lane, and Lowgate, and the bells of St. Mary's and other churches rang out merry peals to usher in the commencement of the imposing ceremony. Long before the time appointed (one o'clock) Scale-lane and its approaches were lined with spectators. Excitement increased with the arrival of every gentleman of the corporate body at the Corporation's offices, and it reached a high pitch when the sound of music was heard in that direction. The strains of the police band brought a large accession of the populace, every available nook or window being filled to repletion by groups of gazing men and women. The time appointed at length arrived, and, to the great satisfaction of the multitude, the procession was formed and moved off.

Vast crowds of people so completely lined the narrow pavement in Lowgate that the procession had but just sufficient space through which to pass on towards the Townhall. Arrived at their destination, the gentlemen included in the procession were received by the volunteers with a general salute, the band of the artillery corps striking up a martial air. At this moment the scene from the Townhall building was gay in the extreme. On the right, drawn up in two files, was a detachment of the volunteer artillery, and on its left were the members of the rifle corps, whose lines extended to the extreme left of the building and across the carriage-way. The bands of the two corps were stationed immediately opposite the entrance of the Townhall; and behind them, above them, and around, in every direction, were dense masses of the general public. Slowly the somewhat limited procession passed through the portals of the Townhall and took up the appointed positions.

If the scene outside the building was more diversified and striking from its contrasts, that inside the building was decidedly the more splendid and dazzling. The beautifully-harmonised decorations, the gay dresses of the ladies who occupied a commanding position at the head of the staircase, the scarlet and purple gowns of the aldermen and councillors, formed a tableau as grand as it was novel, and such as has rarely been witnessed in the past history of the ancient borough of Hull.

The duty of declaring the hall open for public use devolved upon Earl De Grey, who performed the task to the satisfaction of all present. An interesting part of the proceedings was the handing over to the Corporation a handsome statue of the founder of the borough—Edward I.—which had been given to the town by Alderman Hodge. The worthy Alderman having been presented to the Mayor or in due form by Earl De Grey, the Town Clerk read the deed of gift of the statue to the town, the Mayor thanked Alderman Hodge, and Earl De Grey delivered a brief congratulatory address. A banquet in the evening closed the proceedings.

EXTERIOR OF THE NEW TOWNHALL.

The building is in the Italian style, having a frontage to Lowgate of 105 ft., with a depth of 220 ft. The front portion is used entirely for corporation purposes; the centre for the local Board of Health and council-room; and the back portion for the sessions hall, police court, and county court. The front portion of the main building is faced entirely with Steeley stone, having Bradford stone plinth and Portland cornices, with red Mansfield shafts and columns in front, and pilasters at the side. The remainder of the building is faced with the best Walkingham white stock bricks, with Steeley stone dressing and Bradford plinths. The whole of the windows in the front and sides of the main building are in the circular-headed French casement style, with double transomes, and are glazed with large-sized British plate glass, and have carved oak frames.

The friezes of the cornices in front are enriched by small figures holding festoons of flowers. The parapet is enriched by an ornamental balustrade, with vases over each column. At each end of the building are four pillars, which rise to a height of 25 ft. above the cornice, and are surmounted by gilt finials. The front is also enriched by numerous polished granite panels, and the sides are carried out in a manner similar to the front, but not quite so ornamental. Over the keystone of the tower is carved a ship, as representing the maritime character of the town, and over the centre window in the frieze are the Corporation arms (three crowns) supported by two sea-horses. The balconies have ornamental cast-iron balustrades, of an elaborate pattern, and are gilt. In each of the niches in the front of the building are receptacles for statues, in case any such addition to the ornamentation of the building may at any future time be decided upon. In the centre portion of the Lowgate front is a very magnificent tower, which rises to a height of 135 ft. above the roadway. The tower is most elaborately enriched with beaded mouldings, which form panels. At a short distance above the main building are four glass clock dials, each 7 ft. 9 in. in diameter. By night the clock is illuminated. In the tympana above the clock is an ornamental border carved in a palm-leaf pattern surrounding two figures representing Unity and Peace. The tower thus far is square, but the upper portion is circular, and it is carried on eight Mansfield columns, with Corinthian capitals, having red granite panels between the spandrels of the arches and ornamental balustrades on the upper stage, with vases on each shaft, the whole covered in by a large stone dome, highly ornamented and surmounted with a cast-iron finial, embracing the three crowns in the lower portion of it; the whole finial being double gilt. The top-stone of the tower was set by Mr. Chas. Pulman, clerk of the works, on the 24th of June, last year. A day or two afterwards the gilt finial was affixed in its place, and before the end of the week the scaffolding was taken down; a few finishing touches being given to that portion of the building as the work of taking down the scaffolding progressed.

Leaving the front portion of the building, to which our description has hitherto applied, we next come to the sessions court. Outwardly

the sessions hall presents the same appearance of newness as the front of the building; but this improved appearance has been brought about by knocking away the outward row of red bricks, of which the place is really built, and replacing them with white stock bricks. The windows in the east end of the building have also been removed, and that end of the court is lighted by a large circular dome-light. To the northward of the sessions court, and closely adjoining, is the police court and the magistrates' and magistrates' clerks' and the witnesses' rooms. In the south-west corner of the plot on which the Townhall stands is the county-court house, with judge's room, &c. The Bankruptcy Commissioner for the Leeds district, Mr. Commissioner Ayrton, also holds his court in this room.

THE INTERIOR.

Beginning with the basement story, we find a kitchen, 28 ft. by 31 ft., which is fitted with a large range, with smoke-jack, hot plate, stewing-stoves, gas-closet, grilling-stove, sink laid on with hot and cold water, a hoist for sending provisions up to the service-room, which is worked by hand. The kitchen is thoroughly ventilated by means of air-tubes over each gas-burner. In the same story is a scullery, containing sink with hot and cold water, and a range with oven and boiler; also a larder, servants'-hall, two wine-cellars, beer-cellars, pantry; boiler-house, with large steam-boiler (which communicates with flues and pipes) for heating the whole of the building; three spare rooms, back staircase, passages, coalcellars, &c.

The ground floor, which is 6 ft. 6 in. above the level of the street, contains the vestibule, well paved with Bradford stone let in in regular squares, with black polished marble borders and corner pieces. From the vestibule we enter the hall staircase, which is paved similar to the vestibule. The staircase commences in the centre of the hall, and on reaching the landing it goes round on each side of the hall. The stairs consist of red Mansfield solid steps with handsome perforated balustrades, surmounted by massive moulded Sicilian polished marble handrail, about 1 ft. in breadth. The staircase is supported by Doric columns rising from the ground floor, which are painted in imitation of green marble. Those on the landing supporting the roof are Ionic, with pilaster to match. From the top columns rise three semicircular arches, which carry the upper part of the building, and are ornamented with sunk panels, apertures, and other mouldings. The landing is laid with Maw's red, chocolate, blue, and white tiles, forming a beautiful mosaic, in a star pattern. From the upper portion of the balustrade there spring pedestals on each side, carrying massive eight-light candelabra. The ceiling is "coved" with a large lantern light, the sides of which are divided into sunk panels. Immediately beneath the cornice, on the landing, are affixed stout brass rods, by which the oil paintings belonging to the Corporation, and which consist of full-length portraits of her Majesty Queen Victoria and Sir Henry Cooper, both of which were painted as mementos of the visit of the Queen to this town in 1854, &c., are suspended. Above the cornice in the centre, and in full view from the entrance, is a clock, the gift of Mr. Bethel Jacobs. The clock is surrounded by an oak-leaf border, and is supported by water-nymphs. The whole of the surrounding ornaments are etched in gold.

Having given this description of the entrance-hall, staircase, and landing, we descend to the ground floor. On this floor, at the south side of the building, and near to Lowgate, is the town treasurer's public office, also his private office, from which there is access to a strong room, constructed so as to be perfectly fire and thief proof. Attached to these offices there is also a waiting-room. In the rear, on the Leadenhall-square side, are situated the various committee-rooms, adjoining which is the borough surveyor's office. Opposite to the committee-rooms there are several hoard of health offices, and the rate collector's offices.

On the north side of the building, on the ground floor, are the public and private offices which have been set apart for the use of the law clerk. Immediately adjoining is a record-room, fireproof and thief-proof, which is fitted with deed boxes, safes, &c. Still further to the westward is the police court, with magistrates' room adjoining, and magistrates' clerk's room. The session court is more in the centre of the building. Beneath are cells, which communicate with the docks of the police court and the sessions court.

Ascending again the grand staircase, to inspect the various portions of the first floor, we turn to the left, where, passing through a pair of polished mahogany folding-doors, we enter the Mayor's reception-room. Over this room, more, perhaps, than over any other part in the whole building, architectural and decorative art has been most lavishly expended. The doorway is composed of pilasters, architraves, and carton-pierre, with ornamental, floriated tops. The apartment is 57 ft. long by 28 ft. wide. The ceiling is of a novel design, being coved with moulded bands running in a diagonal direction, forming a large number of panels. The intersection of

the bands also form panels in which are paterae, which are made open for the purpose of ventilation. So open, in fact, is the ceiling that one quarter of it is available for ventilating purposes. The windows are circular-headed, with panels and pilasters, ornamented caps and circular archivolts.

The Mayor's private-room, which, for its size, is the gem of the building, is reached from the reception-room by a mahogany door. There is also an approach from the grand staircase. Its size is 22 ft. 6 in. by 18 ft. 4 in., and there are at each corner circular-headed niches, which are formed by a large shell. The ceiling, which is elliptical, on a plain coved section, is deeply moulded, and contains a large ornamental centre flower. On this floor are the town clerk's offices, a record-room, committee-rooms, grand jury room, &c.

To the westward of the grand staircase is the council chamber, with two entrances from the hall and one from the grand jury-room. The entrance on the right of the hall is solely for the use of the members of the council, and that on the left for the public. The council chamber is 36 ft. 6 in. by 36 ft., and is fitted with polished wainscot desks and chairs. The height of the room is 28 ft., and

Egyptian green marble; the caps white, with rouge royal bases. The general tone of the balustrade is a warm stone colour, and the large star enrichment is relieved with lines of grey and red, the hollows of the circular portion being a deep buff, the stringing green, and the mouldings red and buff.

Passing from the hall up the grand staircase, we find that a change in the principal colouring commences. In the centre, immediately facing the entrance-door, is the marble statue of King Edward I., presented to the town by Alderman W. Hodge, and sculptured by Mr. Thos. Earle, who is also a townsman. The base is of dove and Sicilian polished marble. The arms of the deceased monarch are inserted in a lunette above the statue. On the base of the statue is the following inscription:—"This statue of King Edward the First, the founder of this borough, was presented by Ald. Wm. Hodge, who, on the 9th of October, 1862, laid the first stone of this Townhall, in his second mayoralty."

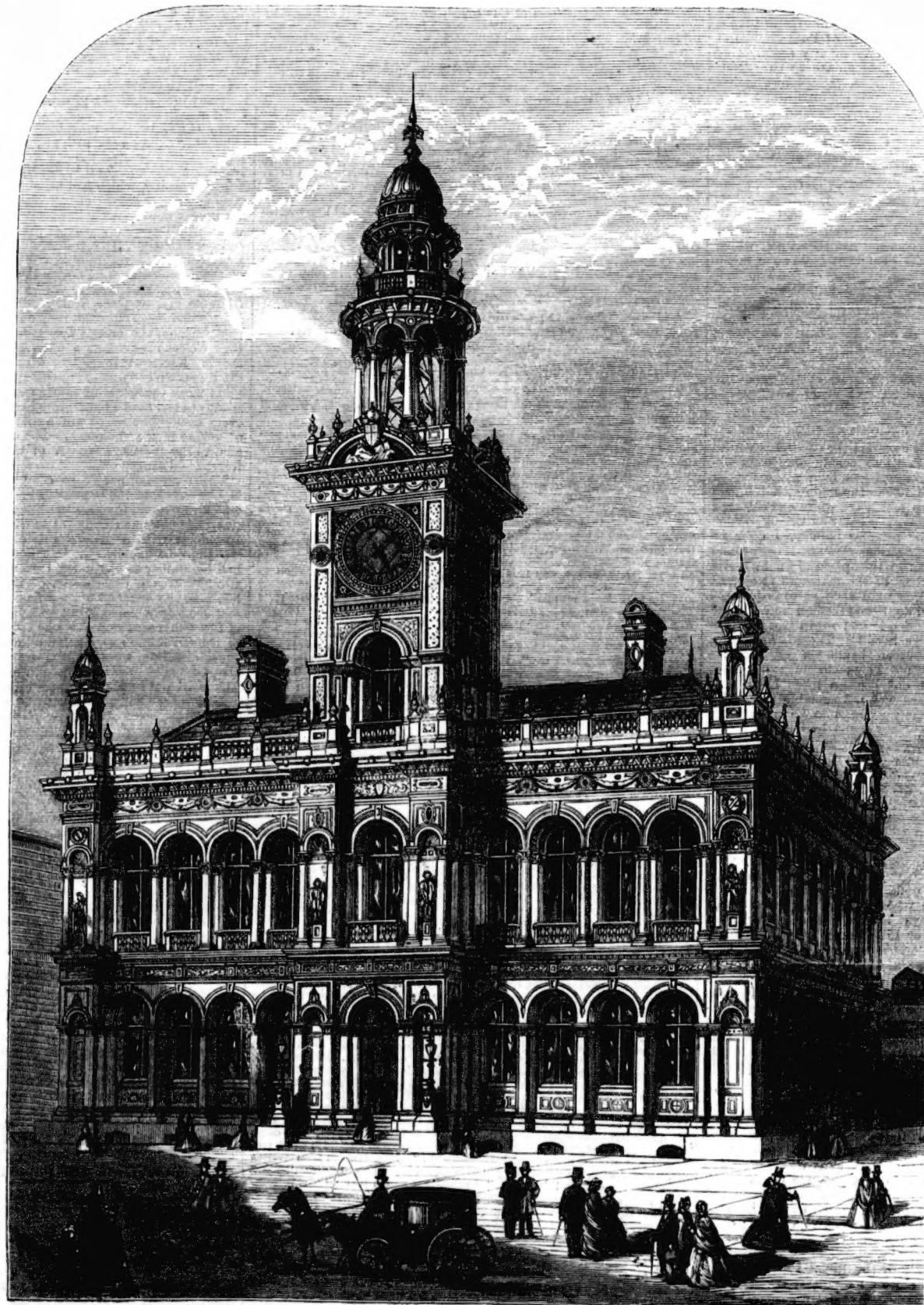
On the marble pedestal on which the statue stands is inscribed the terms of the charter granted by King Edward to this borough, as follows:—"Edward, by the grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke

ful subjects greeting:—Know that for the improvement of our town of Kingston-upon-Hull, and for the utility and profit of our men of the same town, we will and grant, for us and our heirs, that our town aforesaid shall from henceforth be a free borough, and the men of the same town free burgesses; and that they may have for ever all the liberties and free customs belonging to a free borough. Dated at Westminster, the first day of April, in the 27th year of our reign, A.D. 1299."

The walls of the corridor, as well as those of the upper portion of the staircase, are green. In the panels portraits and other oil paintings will be hung. The ceilings of the corridor are pink, with lavender corners, the cornice being picked in to harmonise. In the centre of the lunettes over the council-room doors are painted in relief, on a crimson ground, specimens of ancient naval architecture, one being a galley of the early Greek period, the other a vessel of the time of Alfred the Great, and above the side doors are nautical emblems. The whole of these representations are enriched with painted arabesque ornaments. The pilasters dado, subbase mouldings, and skirtings, are painted to represent various kinds of marble. The woodwork is also painted in colours to harmonise with the other work. The walls, as before stated, are green, and on the frieze above is painted the honeysuckle and lotus ornament on a green ground, intersected with cameo heads. The cornice is picked in in tints; the back of the dentals is red; the soffit grey, and on the cyma recta moulding is a light ornament painted on a green ground, carrying green from the walls up to the cove. The stringing above the cornice is composed of red-style buff panels, with green and pink ornaments intersected with diamond shapes, containing grey ornaments on a blue ground. The cove, which is in four panels, is cream-coloured, with green styles, surrounded by an orange fret border, on a red ground, intersected with grey paterae on a blue ground. On each side of the centre subjects are oval medallions in relief on blue grounds, and inclosed in ornamental frames, they being representations of Spring and Summer on each side of Agriculture, and Autumn and Winter on each side of Science, Justice and Peace on each side of Commerce, and Hope and Amphytrite on each side of

Naval Architecture. The whole of the paneling is richly embellished with painted arabesque ornaments. The upper cove, which is painted in various colours and relieved with lilac ornaments, the background of centres being alternate blue and red, whilst the architectural enrichments are picked in colour, and with the drops relieved in gold.

The general tone and colouring of the Mayor's private room is very pleasing. Running round the panels of recesses is a blue inlaid border, which is surmounted by festoons of flowers. In each panel there is a style, divided with plaster mouldings, richly gilt; whilst on the style is painted arabesque foliage festoons of flowers and oval panels, each of which contains richly-painted fruit—so richly painted, indeed, that the fruit appears actually to stand out in tempting and beautiful relief. The general colour of the walls is yellow and pink, and the woodwork is picked in in colours and gilt to harmonise. The small cove is enriched with pink and white ornaments, and intersected with white paterae on a blue ground. Above is a paterae moulding, picked in in green and gilt, and on the round mouldings are ribbon ornaments of gold. The ceiling is divided into four compartments, and is oval shape; the panels are yellow, with gold lines and grey margin, with relief ornaments in lilac, and the styles are pink, with lilac lines, whilst the centre flower is picked in in various colours, and with other enrichments relieved with gold. From the centre there is suspended a crystal eight-



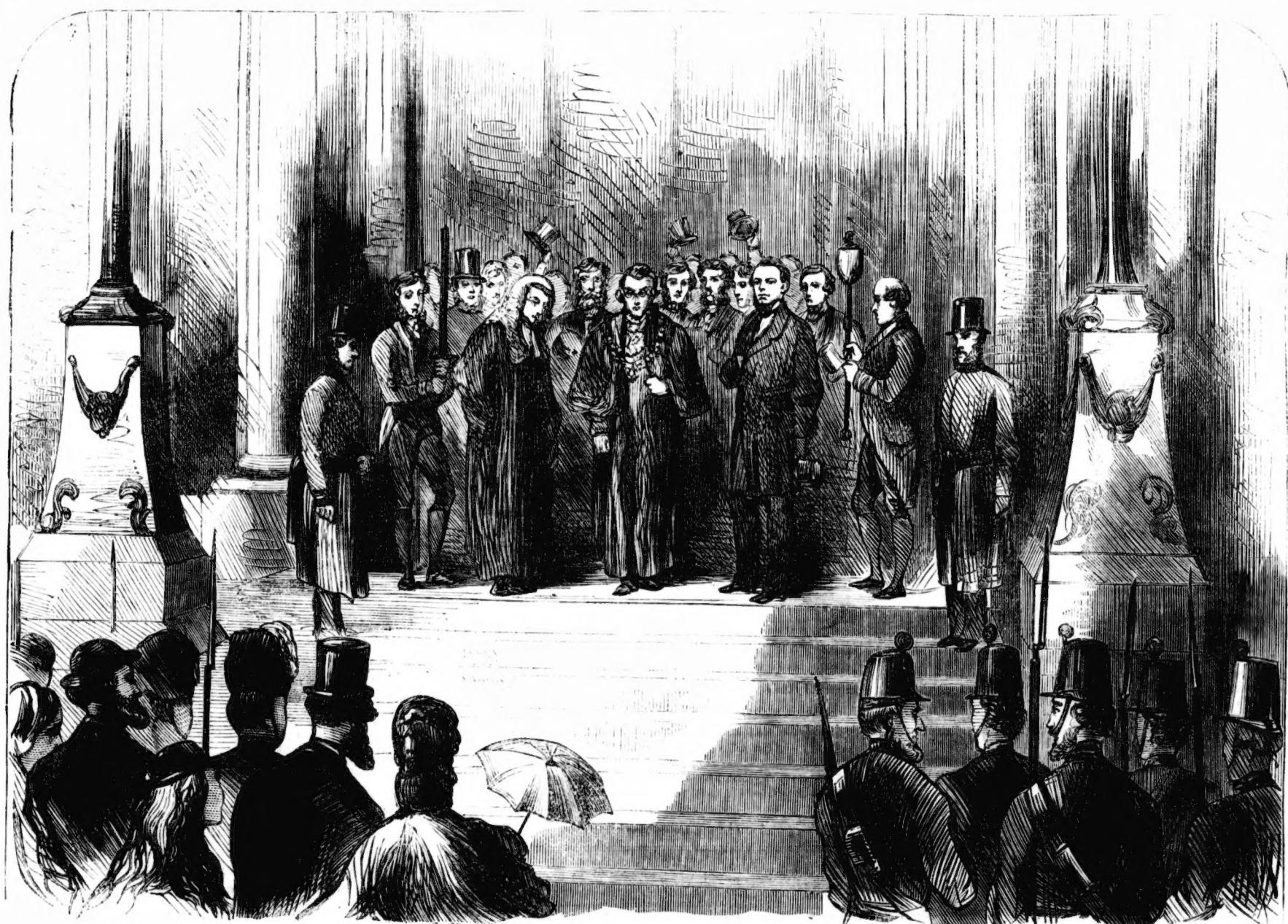
THE NEW TOWNHALL AT HULL.—(CUTHBERT BRODRICK, ARCHITECT.)

there are sixteen pilasters on the sides of the wall. The ceiling is an enriched circular one, with a dome light in the centre 16 ft. in diameter. The floor is covered with a blue and gold Brussels carpet.

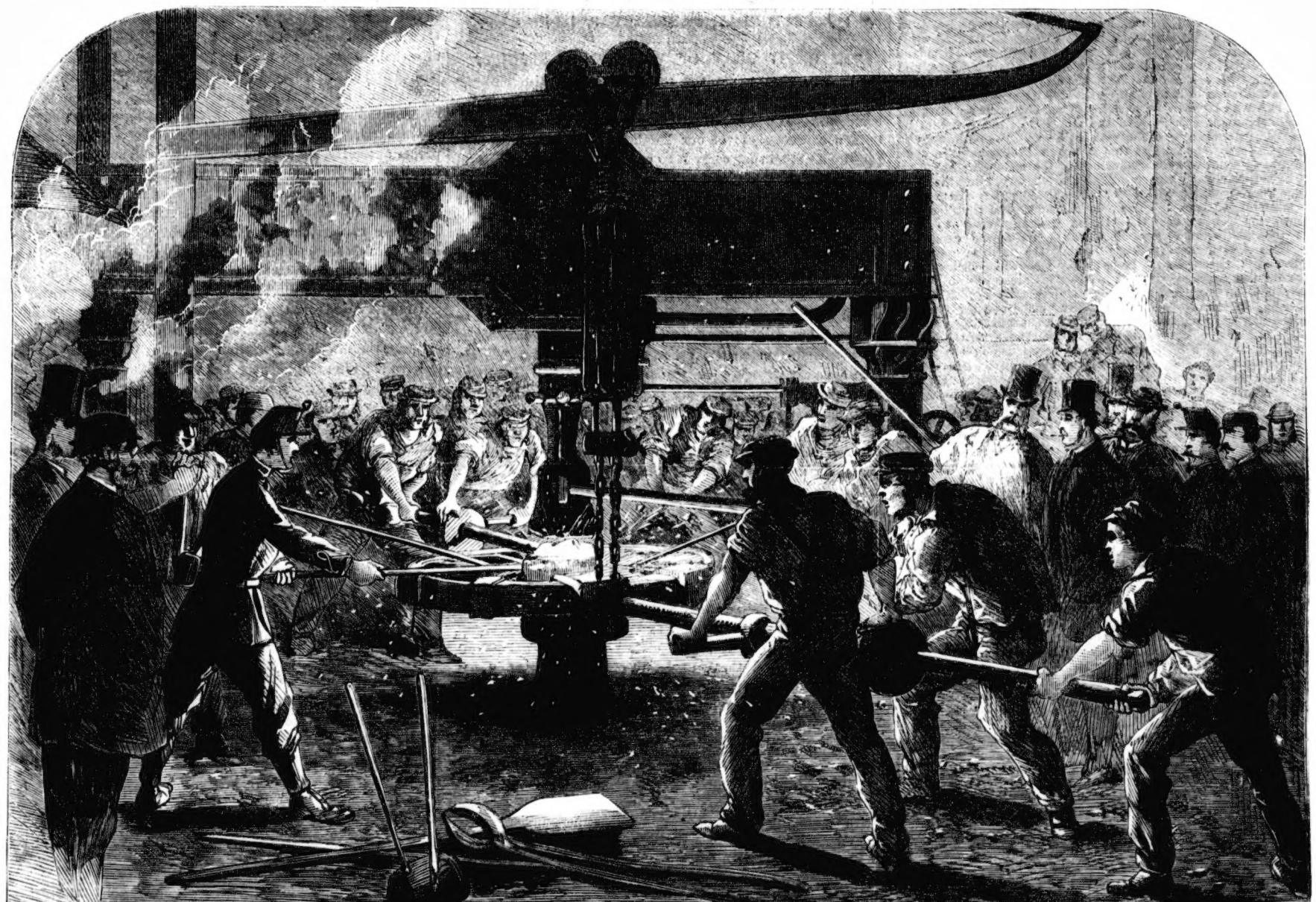
Passing to the second floor, we find the Mayor's bed and dressing rooms, which are fitted up in an elegant manner, being furnished, as regards bed and every other requisite, with an idea of making his Worship as comfortable as he would be at his own home. Closely adjoining are the housekeeper's room, several spare rooms, and in the tower portion of the building on this floor is the clock-chamber. From this chamber, by means of a ladder, we ascend to the bell-room. This room, which is to support the large bell, is an open dome, consisting of eight cast-iron columns, supported by cast-iron brackets springing from corbels let into the wall halfway down the bell-chamber. From the top of the tower there is a lightning conductor, commencing at the base of the gilt finial, and discharging into the main sewer in Lowgate. It is composed of seven stout copper wires, isolated.

THE DECORATIONS.

On entering the hall from the vestibule or principal entrance the walls are painted a subdued red, the cornice being picked out in red, buff, and green. The ceilings are paneled out grey, with light buff styles and decorative corners, and side centres in each. The bressummers dividing each ceiling are in panels, with carved drops in the centre, and the panels are relieved with cream-colour scroll ornaments on a sage-green ground. The shafts of the columns and pilasters in this portion of the building are painted



OPENING OF THE NEW TOWNHALL, HULL



"BOSSING" A WHEEL IN PRESENCE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES AT THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY'S STEELWORKS, CREWE.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 267.

INORGANIC.

It is nearly seven years since a new Parliament assembled. The last met for the first time on the 31st of May, 1859. We described the meeting of that Parliament. But that description is, no doubt, quite obliterated from the memories of those who read it. Moreover, thousands read the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* now who did not read it then; for time works out its changes in this circle, as it does in every other. We will, therefore, again describe the meeting of a new Parliament. First, then, on the day appointed by proclamation in the *Gazette*, the members of the House of Commons assemble in their chamber. The doorkeepers stand at the door, and every member as he passes in gives his name; this, and no more. There is no scrutiny. A stranger by simply giving his name might pass in without hindrance; but then he must take the consequences if discovered. The penalty is £500 every time he sits in the house or votes. The House then has assembled; but it cannot do anything yet. It is not yet a House, but only an inorganic mass of members. Suddenly, however, the doorkeeper comes to the bar and shouts out, "Black Rod;" and the stately usher, clad in court dress, with his rod of office in his hand, marches up the house, bowing as he comes, and when he arrives at the table delivers his message—to wit, that the Lords Commissioners desire the attendance of the members of the House of Commons at the bar of the House of Lords, and, having delivered his message, retires, backwards, bowing as he goes. Whereupon the Clerk of the House, Sir Denis le Marchant, rises from his seat at the table and proceeds to the Upper House, followed by the members, headed by the leader of the House and any other Minister of the Crown who may be present. No other order is observed. The members do not walk in rank and file, but rush along, a mere unorganised crowd—laughing, chatting, and hustling one another like boys just broken loose from school. Of course, the Sergeant-at-Arms is present, but he has no mace with him, as at present the House has no Speaker—is not, indeed, a constituted House. The mace, therefore, which is the emblem of the House's authority, is left lying under the table.

GETS PERMISSION TO ORGANISE.

On arrival at the bar of the House of Lords, the Clerk of the House of Commons bows to the Lords Commissioners, who, clad in their robes, are seated, not on the woolsack, as they usually are, but on a form between the throne and the woolsack. Why they are seated upon this form it is hard to say; such, however, is the custom, come down from ancient times, and that is enough. There are, as our readers know, many ancient forms and customs in our state ceremonials the meaning of which is entirely lost. As soon as the bowing is over, the Lord Chancellor, who is Chief Commissioner, addresses the members of both Houses in this form—"That her Majesty has been pleased to cause letters patent to be issued under her great seal constituting us and other Lords therein mentioned her Commissioners to do all things in her Majesty's name on her part necessary to be performed in this Parliament," &c. In other words, "her Majesty, not seeing fit to come and open Parliament herself (for this is really the opening of Parliament), has appointed us to do the business for her." When the Lord Chancellor has finished this little introductory speech, one of the clerks reads the letters patent at length, and then the Lord Chancellor again addresses both Houses, and tells them "that her Majesty will, as soon as both Houses shall be sworn, declare the causes of her calling this Parliament (i.e., deliver the Royal speech, in fact); and it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Commons should be first chosen, you, gentlemen of the House of Commons, repair to the place where you are to sit, and there proceed to the appointment of some proper person to be your Speaker; and that you present such person whom you shall so choose here to-morrow (at an hour stated) for her Majesty's Royal approbation." This being done, again the clerk bows, and the Commons retire, as bidden, to "the place where they are to sit."

Thus far, then, have we got; the House is not organised yet, but is ordered, by her Majesty, or her Majesty's Commissioners, speaking by command, to begin the process of organisation. On arrival at "the place where they are to sit," some member on the Government side of the House, but not a member of the Government, rises to propose a fit and proper person to be the Speaker of the House—no, not a member of the Government, the House chooses its own Speaker, and must not in appearance be dictated to by the Crown. It is true the Government has determined who shall be its candidate, and even selected his proposer and seconder; all this is well known, but still the form must be kept up, if we have not the substance; we must assume a virtue if we have it not. When the proposer rises, Sir Denis le Marchant, the Clerk of the House, does not call him by name, but, rising, points to him with his finger. The philosophy of this would seem to be that, as this is a new Parliament, the clerk cannot be expected to know the names of the members; but there may have been some other reason, quite occult now, lying far down in backward-stretching vistas of time, and altogether obscured by the mists of antiquity. The nomination of the Speaker performed, the leader of the House generally rises to support the nomination; and, if there be no second candidate, the House, with loud voice, "calls" the member proposed to the chair; whereupon he, having been meanwhile sitting in his place on the benches, rises, expresses "his sense of the honour proposed to be conferred upon him, and submits himself to the House." And then there comes another "call," and the proposer and seconder approach the Speaker elect and conduct him to the chair. And now, of course, he must return thanks for the honour done him; and this he proceeds to do very much in the stereotyped phrase adopted at a public dinner by a guest when returning thanks to those who have just drunk his health. He also "expresses his gratitude," "his humble acknowledgments," "his true sense of the honour," &c. The election being thus far complete, the Sergeant-at-Arms takes the mace from under and lays it upon the table. When two candidates are proposed, the business is conducted much in the same way as other business is. Sir Denis le Marchant puts the question, "That the member first proposed do take the chair." Debate ensues, and a division takes place. If the member first proposed have a majority, he is conducted to the chair. If he should be in a minority, then the clerk puts the question that the second candidate proposed do take the chair, which, being decided, he of course goes to the chair. There has been no contest for the speakership since 1839, when Sir Charles Shaw Lefevre, now Lord Eversley, beat Mr. Goulbourn by 317 to 299.

ELECTS A SPEAKER.

The House now, then, has a Speaker? No, not yet; only a Speaker elect. Consent of her Majesty must be obtained to the choice before he can become a full-blown Speaker. And accordingly, on the following day, Black Rod having duly summoned the House again to the bar of the Lords, Mr. Speaker elect, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms with the mace and followed by the members, proceeds to the Upper House to present himself to the Sovereign. But please to observe that, being as yet but Speaker in the bud, the Sergeant-at-Arms does not carry his mace on his shoulder, but across his arm. Significant emblem, that; come down to us from the time when Majesty need occasionally to refuse assent to the choice of the faithful Commons and send them back to choose another! Majesty never does this now—not has done it, indeed, for nearly 200 years. And if our present Sovereign were to refuse her assent, would her faithful Commons submit? Questionable, I think. Her gracious Majesty, however, we are quite sure, will never put them to the test. This, again, is one of those old ceremonials the life of which has long since died out; but, because the life of them is gone, would we have them abolished? By no means. On the contrary, we would have them religiously preserved, as so many memorials of past times, keeping ever alive in our memories, as they ought to be in every Englishman's memory, the struggles of our ancestors to obtain the freedom which the House of Commons now enjoys and the power which it now exercises.

ORGANISED.

When Mr. Speaker elect, with the members behind him, arrives at the bar of the Lords, he then addresses himself to the representatives of Majesty:—"In obedience to her Majesty's commands, her Majesty's faithful Commons, in the exercise of their undoubted right and privilege, have proceeded to the election of a Speaker; and, as the object of their choice, he now presents himself at your bar, and submits himself, with all humility, to her Majesty's approbation." Whereupon the Lord Chancellor assures him "that her Majesty most fully approves and confirms him as Speaker." And then Mr. Speaker—no longer merely Speaker elect, but Speaker full-blown—lays claim, on behalf of the Commons, "by humble petition, to all their ancient and undoubted rights and privileges;" and—these being conferred, of course—Mr. Speaker bows and retires; and the Sergeant-at-Arms, shouldering the mace now, marches back to the place whence he came; and, having arrived there, the Speaker reports to the House the approval of her Majesty, and repeats his "most respectful acknowledgment for the high honour they have done him." He then puts the House in mind that the first thing to be done is to take and subscribe the oaths prescribed by law, and, standing upon the upper steps, he himself first takes and subscribes these oaths. The members do not take the oaths one at a time, but in batches of thirty or forty, and then, one by one, proceed to the table and subscribe their names in a book. The swearing will go on from twelve to four every day, Sunday excepted, till the 6th. The time for taking the oaths is limited by Act of Parliament to the hours between nine and four o'clock. On the 6th, her Majesty will come down and deliver her Royal speech.

Imperial Parliament.

Parliament was opened by Royal Commission on Thursday. The usual forms having been gone through, the only business in the House of Lords was the swearing-in of members.

In the

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Right Hon. W. Mansell moved the re-election as Speaker of the Right Hon. John Evelyn Denison, and paid a compliment to him for the manner in which he had previously discharged his duties.

Earl Grosvenor having seconded the motion,

Mr. Bright rose for the purpose of making a suggestion with reference to the practice of requiring members of the House who accept invitations to official dinners and parties to appear at them in Court dress. Many members might think this a trifling matter, but he hoped that the practice would be done away with.

Mr. Gladstone sympathised with the remarks of Mr. Bright, and assured the hon. gentleman that any suggestion touching either the dignity or the comfort of the House would be received by Mr. Denison, should he be chosen to the chair.

Mr. Denison, having acknowledged the honour done him, was conducted to the chair, and received the congratulations of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli, both of whom alluded in feeling terms to the loss the House had sustained by the death of Lord Palmerston.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1866.

THE RIGHT SORT OF WORKHOUSE REFORM.

"It was always yet the trick of our English nation," quoth Falstaff, "if they have a good thing, to make it too common." It may with equal truth be said, that it has ever been a characteristic of our English nation that when they take up a notion they carry it to extremes. We usually begin in social matters either by doing too much or doing nothing at all—most frequently the latter; and when we discover our mistake we run to extremes, and either do a great deal too much or cease action altogether. We don't seem to have the knack of hitting on a happy middle course. The *juste milieu* does not appear to come natural to us, except in politics. In personal and social matters we pay little heed to the moral taught in the poet's story of the "Hermit:" still to welcome, but with less of cost, seems foreign to our nature. In intercourse with each other and with strangers, we are either coldly reserved or we are "gushingly" familiar; in dispensing hospitality, we are either meagre or we are profuse; when solicited for charity, we either button up our pockets and surlily refuse or we give our money with heedless and undiscriminating lavishness. In our loves and in our hates we are equally intense, and generally equally unreasoning. We have little of the characteristic of the Laodiceans—we are seldom "neither cold nor hot." We are either frigid as an icicle or we are boiling up to fever heat. We are slow to move, but when we get into motion we go ahead with a vengeance.

Thus, there was a time when we degraded and oppressed the negro; and now we are, some of us, inclined to elevate the Ethiopian above ourselves, and to make a sort of ebony god of him. We once, too, utterly neglected our criminals, and allowed them to be treated worse than brute beasts. To the wickedness and folly of this we were aroused by the efforts of philanthropists like Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, Wilberforce, and Clarkson; and then we rushed to the opposite extreme of pampering rogues till their lot was better than that of the hard-working honest poor, and petting them till they have well-nigh become our masters. We have become so excessively humanitarian, that we shall soon, we suppose, be ashamed to inflict any punishment whatever for crime. A murderer under sentence of death is an object of intense interest to us, and we must needs be informed of all his sayings and doings. A thief suffering penal servitude commands more sympathy and receives more care than the hard-toiling labourer in our fields. The rogue in prison is better lodged, and clothed, and fed

than many honest and industrious workmen out of it. We are even forming associations to enable discharged convicts to get a new start in the world—a kindness which we give ourselves no trouble to confer on those who have never committed an offence. The aims of convicts'-friend associations may be laudable, to a certain degree; but we must be careful not to let our benevolent impulses carry us too far, lest we offer a premium for crime and put honesty at a discount.

In like manner as we have dealt with criminals have we dealt and are dealing with paupers. We permitted the poor to be neglected and abused, and, having become awake to the fact, we are in danger of running into the mistake of treating them too well. Exposure of abuses in our workhouses has excited something like a pauper mania amongst us; and we are seemingly inclined to overdo humanitarianism, and, neglecting all rules of discrimination, let our paupers, whatever their character, get the upper hand of us. We must be careful to guard against this folly. The horrors discovered to exist in the Lambeth Workhouse and elsewhere should not blind us to the fact that many—perhaps most—paupers have brought their poverty upon themselves, and have no right to fare sumptuously, or even comfortably, at the expense of the diligent and the prudent. What is necessary and decent, we are bound for our own sakes to provide for the poor, whatever be their antecedents. But society is not bound to do more; and it is entitled to see that the provision made for the poor is not appropriated by the non-necessitous and non-deserving. We must never forget that there are among the applicants for relief many who are neither necessitous nor deserving. For this purpose proper checks and sufficient tests must be devised, and the rules laid down rigidly adhered to. To accomplish this, competent officers must be employed. And it is here that workhouse reform is most wanted. Old worn-out paupers are not the sort of persons to be intrusted with the administration of the internal economy of workhouses and casual wards. Men of experience and firmness should be employed, who are competent to discriminate between the various classes of applicants and to exercise authority and enforce order and decency. Had such officers been stationed in the casuals' shed at the Lambeth Workhouse, such scenes as those described by the writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette* could never have occurred. The decent poor would have been separated from the "roughs," the apparently healthy from the palpably diseased, the young and uncontaminated from known and hardened criminals. Cleanliness would have been enforced; the apparatus for ablution would have been in proper condition; and order and discipline would have been maintained, instead of the disgusting ribaldry, profanity, and utter blackguardism which reigned unchecked in that pandemonium besouth the Thames. The labour-test, too, would be something other than a mere sham if the duty of enforcing it were intrusted to men who both could and would perform it. The warders in our correctional prisons have a worse class of persons under their charge than are the bulk of our paupers, either regular or casual; and yet two warders are sufficient to preserve discipline and order in dormitories where as many as two hundred desperadoes sleep. Why cannot the same be done in the casual wards of workhouses? Simply, because the right men are not appointed to the work. Till the right men, with proper authority, are appointed, the work will not be efficiently performed. There is no real reason, were proper measures adopted, why one man should do another man's work, or be defiled by another's impurity either of body or mind. These are matters, however, about which our present workhouse officials seem to know little and to care less.

But the truth is, that the mischief begins at the top and permeates downwards. The Poor-Law Board lacks power to enforce its mandates, the guardians lack capacity or will to do their duty, the workhouse officers are incompetent and careless, the law is disobeyed or defied by those who should enforce it; the genuine poor suffer, and the sham poor—the rogues who spend their money in debauchery and lodge and feed at the public expense—follow the example set them, and laugh at the whole affair while they take advantage of—and abuse—the provision made for others. To remedy existing evils it is necessary—1, That more power should be given to the Poor-Law Board and its officers; 2, that a better and more intelligent class of men should be got to act as guardians, or, failing that, the local boards should be abolished altogether; 3, that trained, efficient, intelligent, and firm officers should be intrusted with the internal management of workhouses; 4, that warders capable of maintaining order and discipline, and invested with the requisite authority, should be stationed in the several wards, particularly those appropriated to casuals; 5, that a system of classification should be adopted that will, as far as possible, separate the honest from the vicious, the diseased from the healthy; and, 6, that the application of the labour-test should be intrusted to officers who will do their duty themselves and not delegate it to others. Were our workhouses reformed in this fashion, we should have proper care taken of the poor, we should have fewer workhouse scandals, and, probably, lighter rates.

THE NOVEL-WRITERS OF THE DAY.—It is a curious circumstance, says an Irish paper, that at this time nearly all the serial stories in the leading magazines are being written by Irish authors or by authors of Irish extraction. Thus, that of the *Cornhill*, "Armadale," is by Wilkie Collins, whose father, the painter, was an Irishman; that of *Blackwood*, "Sir Brooke Fosbrooke," is by Mr. Lever; that in *Macmillan* is by the Hon. Mrs. Norton, the daughter of "Tom Sheridan;" that in *All the Year Round*, "The Second Mrs. Tilston," is by Mr. Percy Fitzgerald; that in the *Dublin University*, by Mr. J. S. Le Fanu; that in *Once a Week*, by Mr. Trafford, author of "George Geith;" that in the *Shilling Magazine*, by the same; that of *Temple Bar*, by Mr. Wills (Irish also), and by Miss Braddon, who, it is rumoured, is of Irish extraction.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to appoint Lord Dunfermline, Dr. John Brown, and Mr. John Tait, Sheriff of Linlithgowshire, &c., as additional members of the Royal Commission upon Education in Scotland.

PRINCE ALFRED, it is expected, will take his seat in the House of Lords as a peer of the realm before the Session is over.

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA arrived at Pesth on Monday. They had a favourable reception.

THE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN has requested the Empress Eugenie to accept the medal of Civil Merit, in recognition of her Majesty's noble courage and truly Christian charity in visiting the cholera wards of the Paris hospitals.

M. VICTOR HUGO has a new romance in the press; the title of it is "Les Travailleurs de la Mer."

DR. FORBES WINSLOW, who has suffered somewhat severely from injuries inflicted by a fall from his horse, has sufficiently recovered to resume his professional duties.

DR. CULLEN has issued a pastoral, in which he repudiates the suggested endowment of the Catholic Church and cautions his flock against all kinds of secret societies.

ENGLISH TRAVELLERS IN AUSTRIA no longer require to have their passports countersigned by the Austrian Minister in London.

THE DEATH OF MR. GIBSON, the sculptor, is again announced as having occurred on Saturday last.

NEGOTIATIONS for the formation of a new corps of Austrian volunteers for Mexico will soon be brought to a conclusion.

MADAME SAQUI, the rope-dancer, whose fame dates from the beginning of this century, died on Wednesday in Paris, in her eightieth year.

THE Temple Bar magazine has been purchased by Mr. Bentley, of New Burlington-street.

THE NECESSITIES OF THE PAPAL TREASURY are so great that it has been resolved to levy a light tax on all vessels entering Roman ports.

THE INHABITANTS OF ST. KILDIA being in a starving condition, H.M.S. Jackal has been despatched from Greenock with provisions.

THE BOROUGH MAGISTRATES OF TRURO had not a single case brought before them between the 8th and 29th of January.

MR. HENRY HUSSEY VIVIAN, one of the members for Glamorganshire, is about to be made a Baronet. Mr. Vivian is the head of the wealthy copper-smelting firm of Vivian and Sons. He has represented Glamorganshire for the last nine years, and previously sat for Truro.

A CHICAGO CLERGYMAN missed his stockings on Christmas morning, and after a long search found one on each horn of a new milch cow, which had been presented to him by his parishioners, and ornamented in this way to indicate that it was a Christmas gift. [Query, had the rev. gentleman only one pair?]

AT THE EXAMINATION recently held at South Kensington for free students in the Royal School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering the successful candidates were Thomas Turnball, Whitby, Yorkshire, and Adrian Vizetelly, London.

A FIVE-ACT HISTORICAL PLAY has, we understand, been written and printed privately by Mr. Martin Tupper with a view to its representation in the spring. The subject is "The Life and Death of Raleigh." It is said to offer extraordinary opportunities for spectacular display.

THE CONSUMPTION OF WINES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, according to the returns of last year, reached a million gallons per month, which is just double what it was before the reduction of duties.

THE LAMBETH SHED, visited by an amateur, has been closed, and the casuals assigned to certain lodging-houses. In one of these a reporter of the *Daily News* found some twenty men and boys, all asleep on hay mattresses, all perfectly naked, and crowding together for warmth till they were packed on the floor like eels. The guardians of St. Pancras have just ordered that the female casuals shall have night-dresses, they having hitherto always slept naked.

A FEW DAYS AGO the Ballot Society wrote to Earl Russell, asking his Lordship to receive a deputation on the subject of the ballot. His Lordship has written in reply, declining to receive the deputation. He would receive it if he thought any advantage would be gained; but his opinions are, he says, well known, and no useful end would be served by his receiving the deputation.

COLONEL M'LEAN, Governor of Natal, there is reason to believe, is not dead, the report to that effect having been published in mistake. At the date of last advice, he had been ill, but was recovering.

THE GOVERNMENT have offered a reward of £1000 for such private information as will lead to the apprehension of Stephens, the Irish "Head Centre," in addition to the £1000 previously offered for his capture.

A COMMITTEE OF LEADING ACTORS is being formed for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of the late Mr. G. V. Brooke by establishing a life-boat, and building a house in connection with the Royal Dramatic College at Maybury, both to bear his name.

EXCAVATIONS NOW BEING MADE AT POMPEII have brought to light several vestiges of the ancient Christians. In the palace of the Edile Pansa, in the Via Fortuna, an unfinished sculptured cross has been found on one of the walls, as well as abusive inscriptions and caricatures ridiculing a crucified God.

A FUND is being raised in Ireland to purchase the Windele Manuscripts for the Royal Irish Academy. These manuscripts illustrate the language, history, antiquities, and folk-lore of Munster. They extend to 130 volumes, and are offered by Mr. Windele's executors for a hundred pounds.

THE CAPTAIN OF THE EMIGRANT-SHIP NEPTUNE is in custody at New York, charged with cruelty to his passengers and crew during the voyage from Liverpool to that port. Several affidavits proving the horrible state of affairs during the passage have been sworn.

A MEETING OF DELEGATES from various metropolitan vestries was held on Tuesday for the purpose of taking measures to obtain an amendment of the Gas Act in the interest of the consumers. Resolutions in accordance with the object of the meeting were unanimously passed.

GENERAL PRIM declines for the present all idea of visiting either France or England, and has memorialised the Portuguese Government for leave to stay a twelvemonth in the kingdom, giving his parole not to quit whatever city is appointed for his sojourn.

THE FOLLOWING PLAN FOR DEALING WITH THE FENIANS has been proposed:—"Allow and invite all Fenians to meet, armed, on a certain day upon the Curragh of Kildare, to choose a President of the Irish Republic. The voting will commence on the first day, the fighting on the second day, and on the third one Fenian will be left, who may then elect himself president and preside over himself."

A NEWSPAPER posted in Dublin a few days before last Christmas, and addressed to Filey, only arrived at its destination on Thursday morning week. The cause of this great delay arose from the writer having used the unnecessary word near—viz., "Filey, near York," which the Dublin official mistook for "New York," and consequently dispatched the newspaper to America, whence it has just been returned.

THE J. D. VISSER (Dutch barque), arrived at Singapore from Hong-Kong reports that in lat. 17 N. she passed the Pride of the Ganges standing in towards the China coast, with signal flying, "Mutiny on Board." The J. D. Visser signalled "Heave to and I will come to your assistance," the reply to which was not allowed. The Dutch vessel followed, but the Pride of the Ganges outsailed her, and when last seen the signal "Master overboard" was flying.

AN OLD DOCTOR OF MAGDEBURG has discovered the means of living a long time, and has left the information in his will to the world. He died at the age of 108. Here is the recipe of Dr. Fischweler:—"Let the body recline as often as possible during the day quite flat on the ground, the head pointing due north and the feet due south, by which means the electric current will pass through the body; but by all means and in any situation let the bed be due north and south."

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE having moved the Government to remonstrate with the Shah of Persia on behalf of the Jews who were oppressed in that country, a letter from the Foreign Office to Sir Moses states that the Shah, on representations being made to him, has taken steps to put an end to the grievances of which the Jews complained.

MR. CLAY, M.P., addressing some of his constituents at Hull, has developed a scheme of reform which he intends to embody in a bill and propose to the House of Commons. He suggests that, in addition to the lowering of the franchise by the coming Government Reform Bill, a vote should be obtained by any man who could pass a simple examination similar to, but easier than, that undergone by the inferior officers of Customs. He calculates that this franchise would add to the constituency half a million of voters who would not be brought in by any rental suffrage.

REFORM MEETING AT MANCHESTER.—A great reform meeting was held at Manchester on Tuesday night. It was held under the auspices of the National Reform Union, and was attended by a large number of influential persons from various parts of the district. Mr. George Wilson occupied the chair. Six members of Parliament took part in the proceedings—Messrs. Bazley, T. B. Potter, Hibbert, R.N.; Phillips, Whitworth, and Cheetham; also Mr. E. A. Leatham, and Dr. Sandwith, of Kara. The opinion of the meeting was unanimously in favour of accepting no measure less comprehensive than the bill of 1860, which embodied the principle of a £6 rental franchise.

MR. EUGENE RIMMEL, ever ingenious and ever tasteful, has just issued a pretty bit of illuminated flower-printing, called "Violet Modesty." The central design is surrounded by a handsome embossed border, the whole being redolent of the odour of the sweet-scented violet.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

MR. GOSCHEN has taken his seat in the Cabinet. Twenty years Lord Palmerston was climbing to this height: Mr. Goschen has leaped to it at one bound. It used to be thought that there was a deep, wide, impassable gulf between a City counting-house and the Cabinet, but Earl Russell has proved that this was only an imaginary gulf. By-the-way, I hear that it was on Mr. Gladstone's recommendation, or suggestion, that this appointment was given to Mr. Goschen. And one can with little difficulty suppose that this may be true. Mr. Goschen is a great financier, has done wonders in finance, and, doubtless, contemplates more. Cabinet Ministers are not, as a rule, adepts at finance, and it is very likely that Mr. Gladstone has had some hard struggles in the Cabinet to induce his colleagues to consent to his bold proposals. What wonder, then, that he should wish to have such an able ally at his back as Mr. Goschen? I understand that there is still a good deal of jealousy rankling in the breasts of some of the members of the Government, and also of certain members not in the Government, who think that they ought to be in. But it is hardly likely that this jealousy will find expression in the House, Mr. Goschen's appointment, and the feelings engendered thereby, will probably be sharply and freely criticised in the tobacco parliament down below, but not in the House above. Etiquette, and I may add gentlemanly feeling, will keep members silent upon the subject there. Mr. Disraeli may hurl an indirect taunt or sarcasm at this unusual precedent; but I should hardly think he will, especially if it be true that Mr. Goschen is one of his own race, as some men say he is. In that case, the Conservative leader will view the advance of Mr. Goschen to the high offices of state as another triumph of the Caucasian race, and rejoice. The Liberal press has unanimously lauded the appointment; but amongst politicians opinions differ. "A strange appointment," said one to me the other day. "Earl Russell has, I consider, damaged his Government materially by making this Goschen a Cabinet Minister," said another; whilst a third, who has himself been a member of the Government, thinks that this bold step has strengthened the Ministry; and I think that in the House this latter opinion will be found to prevail.

Let no man believe a word that is written or said about the reform bill. Those most likely to know confess that they know nothing. The rumour that Earl Russell means to propose a £6 rateal qualification for boroughs may possibly be true, but it is very unlikely. It would be in the highest degree impolitic, and I may say foolish, to do no more than this. A £6 rateal qualification is equivalent to an £8 rental in some places, whilst in others it will be found to be higher than that. And, of course, such a settlement of the Reform question could be only temporary. Agitation for another Reform Bill would at once commence. However, I do not believe in this £6 rateal scheme; that is to say, I do not believe that this is the franchise to be proposed by the Government. It comes to us with no show of authority; whilst, as I have said, in quarters where the truth is likely to be known, if anywhere, nothing is known. Earl Russell is an old, experienced tactician, and the last man in the world to unmask his plans prematurely.

The *South-Eastern Gazette* tells us, on authority, that Lord Clarence Paget has not, and never had, any intention of giving up the representation of Sandwich or taking the command of the Channel Fleet; and it goes on to say, in confirmation of this, that no vacancy exists on any of our stations, nor is likely to exist for many months; and also that Lord Clarence Paget has been selected to move the Estimates in the ensuing Parliament. Methinks the lady doth protest too much. The *S.-E. Gazette* might have been content to say that Lord Clarence has no intention, &c. To say that he never had, is going too far. The case may be this: There is no vacancy now on any of our naval stations, but there may be in a few months; and in a few months Parliament may—some say must—be dissolved; and then Lord Clarence may take the vacancy alluded to, and leave the electors to select somebody to fill up the vacancy at Sandwich; but, of course, it would not do for Lord Clarence to disclose this, because there may not be a vacancy in any of our fleets for a few months; or, if there should be, the Conservatives may be in power; and in that case Lord Clarence must, of course, stick to Sandwich. Lord Clarence is too good a player to show his hand; but I have no doubt that he holds this trump card of the Channel Fleet.

The Royal Gallery is to be closed when the Queen goes to open Parliament. Her Majesty will enter the House by the Peers' private staircase, and the public are to be strictly excluded. These are the orders given; and the necessary arrangements are in progress to carry them out.

As was quite to be expected, the adventures described by the writer of the papers entitled "A Night in a Workhouse," in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, have not only excited great interest, but have been productive of at least one attempt at imitation. But the difference between the earnest man and the sham was perhaps never better illustrated. A harness-maker, under the influence, as he alleged himself, of pothouse-derived courage, betook himself to the St. James's Workhouse. He got admission, but "funked" at the ordeal he saw awaited him; was discovered, searched, money found in his possession, and himself handed over to the police. So much for an imitator of one sort; but that is not the only kind of piracy which the "Night in the Workhouse" has induced. I have a copy of a publication of eight pages in which the "Gentleman Casual's" adventures are done into rhyme and sold for threepence—a pretty good price for putting other people's ideas into doggerel. The effusion is said to be by "M.A.", who, according to a circular which accompanies the brochure, is author of certain religious performances which I will not advertise by naming; but it is quite clear that "M. A." is thoroughly commercial in his views, and does not at all believe in doing good for its own sake. If he wants to "put money in his purse" by his rhymes, he should at least find his own materials, and not pilfer those of others. I am bound to say, however, that the points of the now famous letters are pretty well caught; but as for the rhyme, it is vile, as these specimen verses will show:—

I sallied forth the other night,
In sad and piteous plight,
To do, as I considered right;
To sleep within a workhouse.

The "Swearing Club" was most profane,
While nought but tumult seemed to reign,
And decent men complained in vain;
"Twas no use in the workhouse.

Given a theme and ideas, he must be a dull dog indeed who could not "rhyme without ceasing" in this style. Even the resting times stipulated for by Touchstone in a like case would be unnecessary.

An advertisement announces the formation of a new club, to be called the Young England Club. Its object is to provide refreshment for members and their friends after the hours limited by statute for the keeping open of public-houses. The company of those individuals who find themselves unable to get enough to drink at taverns before one o'clock a.m. will no doubt be highly improving and entertaining. If, as the prospectus states, the club is to be for the benefit of gentlemen occupying chambers, the notion suggests itself that the sooner such gentlemen repair to their chambers before or after one o'clock the better for themselves and their friends.

The news that Gustave Doré is engaged on illustrations of the "Idylls of the King," and that those illustrations will be on his usual grand scale—the same size as the "Dante" and the "Perroult"—will be welcomed by all lovers of art. Some of the best of his drawings have belonged to such scenes as are offered him in Tennyson's greatest work—for instance the opening illustration in the January number of "Don Quixote," and those spirited cuts to "Jaufray the Knight," which was, if I mistake not, the first book of his that made its way to England. There is little fear of Doré making a mistake which other illustrators of the "Idylls" have fallen into. He will not sacrifice the picturesque to antiquarian correctness in clothing Arthur and his knights in the cos-

tume of the real Arturian period. Such correctness may be laudable in history, but the Romances of the Round Table are of mediæval birth—the men and arms they describe are not early Saxon, but of the *Moyen Age*, made to do duty for an earlier period, as the Middle Age painters put the prodigal in doublet and hose, and dressed Noah like a burgomaster.

I paid a visit the other day to the studio of Mr. Gerrard Robinson, the woodcarver, of Duke-street, Manchester-square, and a very pleasant visit it was; for I saw there some of the finest wood-carvings I ever saw. They have none of the stiffness and heaviness of ordinary wood-carvings; and yet, though light and spirited, are not mere *tours de force* with the material—all is honest work. Mr. Robinson has a great deal of the artist in him; his designs are bold and masterly chalk-drawing, not mere workman's maps. It seems almost a pity that he has not given some time to clay and marble; for his figures possess merits we look for in vain in the works of many professed sculptors. One of his largest works, a sideboard representing in its panels all the history of Chevy Chase, a handsome piece of furniture, for which, I believe, the late Duke of Northumberland was in treaty, is a really extraordinary achievement. You may descend critically from the *ensemble* of the sideboard to the composition of the separate panels, and continue your examination to the groups and figures—ay, and down to their faces—and find nowhere a slackening of the masterhand or a want of the true artistic feeling. I shall be very much astonished if Mr. Robinson does not speedily make a wide reputation; in the mean time, I recommend my readers who happen to be in that direction to pay him a visit.

THE LOUNGER AT PARIS.

I have been lounging a few days in Paris, and I have returned with the firm conviction that there is no lounging-ground like it. It is so exactly unlike London; one can lounge there everywhere, whereas here, except in Pall-mall and St. James's-street, where can one lounge in comfort? There is but little news. More boulevards are rising, and the Emperor and his refractory cousin, it is said, are about to reconcile their differences, and "Monsieur mon cousin" will yet be president of the great exhibition. Apropos of the exhibition, I rode down to its site, which was all that I could see; the buildings and grounds are not yet visible, for the simple reason that they do not yet exist. A certain number of wheelbarrows, and a certain number of workmen, and some upturned earth, are but a poor sight; so I compensated myself by driving to Prince Napoleon's Roman house in the Champs Elysées, which is and has been for sale any time these two years. It is very beautiful, very complete, and all that; it possesses every convenience that an ancient Pompeian in a high state of classicity could have required, but it is hardly adapted to the wants of a modern Parisian, his wife, and family. It struck me that even the concierge sneered at it, and thought his own little lodges more comfortable. I wonder if anyone will ever buy it. It would be a nice toy for a Manchester millionaire desirous of producing an effect and encouraging the ancient baths and household furniture. The Channel was rough both when I crossed and re-crossed. Admirable as are the arrangements of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, they have not yet learned to control the weather. If they ever do, how comfortable will be the eleven hours' journey from London, the solid and smoky, to the most delightful capital in Europe!

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The question, "What will the Government do?" is the title of an article in *Blackwood*. The conclusion arrived at is that there will be a defeat upon the Jamaica question, followed, of course, by a change of "her Majesty's Constitutional advisers," and that the Reform question will not arise at all. The number contains a very happy paper in which Ariosto and Spenser are compared from the religious point of view; and we may remark, in passing, that any device, any selection of topic for the purpose of getting people to attend to the "Fairy Queen" is welcome and useful, so little is the book read. We are glad to meet "Miss Marjoribanks" again, after an absence of some months.

London Society contains at least one pleasant little story, "The Two Valentines"—unless, indeed, it should rather be called an expanded anecdote. The "Camp Life of a Magistrate in India" is not bad, too. Mr. Mark Lemon's "Up and Down in London Streets" is, of course, entertaining. We have read all this a hundred times before; but when shall we be tired of reading of St. Paul's as it was before the Great Fire; of Evil May Day; of Cheapside as Milton walked up and down it? The woodcuts are good.

In the story entitled "Christ Church Days," in the *Churchman's Family Magazine*, we are told, incidentally (it is by no means a bad story), that "Oxford dons would be horrified at the spectacle which Cambridge incessantly presents, of the undergraduates living in apartments." Really, now! Little things horrify little minds. When I was at Oxford I "horrified" a don by having over thirty valentines posted to him from different parts of England, taking care that he should get them all by the same post. I have reason to believe that he was very poorly after it. If this should meet his eye—

The Argosy is conspicuous this month for variety, and I think five or six articles, out of eleven, are by women. "Griffith Gaunt" is full of vigour and excitement. The next best thing in the number is "The Future," by "M. B. S." Surely it is no secret that this is Miss Smedley, the "M. S." or "S. M." author of "Twice Lost," to say nothing of those noble verses to Garibaldi which we all remember?

Of *Good Words* it is scarcely possible to say anything too strong in the way of praise. Mrs. Oliphant's story, "Madonna Mary"; Mr. Perowne on that "Prayer" question which has lately been knocked about so much; and "The Old Yeomanry Weeks," by the author of "Citoyenne Jacqueline," are among the best things of the month. In the course of a very interesting paper, Dean Alford says that "he lives most usefully who is imbued with the ideas of his own age, living up to its standard," &c. Now, how does Dean Alford know who lives most usefully?

In Mr. Beeton's *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine* the paper about poor John Clare, and that about "The Depths of Poverty," are so admirable that I gladly point them out as deserving much more attention than they are (one fears) likely to get in a magazine which gives fashion-plates.

The *Cornhill*, *Macmillan*, and *Temple Bar* have not yet reacted.

In this column, where I once took the liberty of saying a word in defence (not justification) of Mr. Ruskin, I take an opportunity of noticing Mr. Ruskin's "Ethics of the Dust: Lectures and Dialogues upon Crystallisation" (Smith, Elder, and Co.). As I have made it plain, Mr. Editor, speaking in my own person, that I think Mr. Ruskin has received some unjust treatment of late, there will be no risk of misunderstanding if I say that this book is a disappointing one, and, in some places, I think quite wrong-headed. The machinery of it seems to be quite unworkable, too, in hands like Mr. Ruskin's. A book signed by this name must contain wise and beautiful things, and must be, on the whole, desirable and loveable; in fact, I have read it through, and know others have read it through, with moments of keen delight; but it is not to be called a satisfactory book.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

There is positively no novelty this week. While Messrs. Webster, Wiggin, Vining, Byron, and Fechter, insist upon running pieces for three and six months at a time, the public must not be surprised if the dramatic critic is only occasionally called upon to exercise his craft upon dramatic productions.

A Mr. Fleming Norton is giving an occasional entertainment in aid of various charities. The entertainment is in "character," after the manner of Mr. Woodin's, and although Mr. Fleming Norton is at present but an amateur, he gives evidence of an imitative talent which is worth cultivating if he intends, as I understand he does, to take to the "boards" professionally.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 267.

INORGANIC.

IT is nearly seven years since a new Parliament assembled. The last met for the first time on the 31st of May, 1859. We described the meeting of that Parliament. But that description is, no doubt, quite obliterated from the memories of those who read it. Moreover, thousands read the ILLUSTRATED TIMES now who did not read it then; for time works out its changes in this circle, as it does in every other. We will, therefore, again describe the meeting of a new Parliament. First, then, on the day appointed by proclamation in the *Gazette*, the members of the House of Commons assemble in their chamber. The doorkeepers stand at the door, and every member as he passes in gives his name; this, and no more. There is no scrutiny. A stranger by simply giving his name might pass in without hindrance; but then he must take the consequences if discovered. The penalty is £500 every time he sits in the house or votes. The House then has assembled; but it cannot do anything yet. It is not yet a House, but only an inorganic mass of members. Suddenly, however, the doorkeeper comes to the bar and shouts out, "Black Rod;" and the stately usher, clad in court dress, with his rod of office in his hand, marches up the house, bowing as he comes, and when he arrives at the table delivers his message—to wit, that the Lords Commissioners desire the attendance of the members of the House of Commons at the bar of the House of Lords, and, having delivered his message, retires, backwards, bowing as he goes. Whereupon the Clerk of the House, Sir Denis le Marchant, rises from his seat at the table and proceeds to the Upper House, followed by the members, headed by the leader of the House and any other Minister of the Crown who may be present. No other order is observed. The members do not walk in rank and file, but rush along, a mere unorganised crowd—laughing, chatting, and hustling one another like boys just broken loose from school. Of course, the Sergeant-at-Arms is present, but he has no mace with him, as at present the House has no Speaker—is not, indeed, a constituted House. The mace, therefore, which is the emblem of the House's authority, is left lying under the table.

GETS PERMISSION TO ORGANISE.

On arrival at the bar of the House of Lords, the Clerk of the House of Commons bows to the Lords Commissioners, who, clad in their robes, are seated, not on the woolsack, as they usually are, but on a form between the throne and the woolsack. Why they are seated upon this form it is hard to say; such, however, is the custom, come down from ancient times, and that is enough. There are, as our readers know, many ancient forms and customs in our state ceremonials the meaning of which is entirely lost. As soon as the bowing is over, the Lord Chancellor, who is Chief Commissioner, addresses the members of both Houses in this form—"That her Majesty has been pleased to cause letters patent to be issued under her great seal constituting us and other Lords therein mentioned her Commissioners to do all things in her Majesty's name on her part necessary to be performed in this Parliament," &c. In other words, "her Majesty, not seeing fit to come and open Parliament herself (for this is really the opening of Parliament), has appointed us to do the business for her." When the Lord Chancellor has finished this little introductory speech, one of the clerks reads the letters patent at length, and then the Lord Chancellor again addresses both Houses, and tells them "that her Majesty will, as soon as both Houses shall be sworn, declare the causes of her calling this Parliament (i.e., deliver the Royal speech, in fact); and it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Commons should be first chosen, you gentlemen of the House of Commons, repair to the place where you are to sit, and there proceed to the appointment of some proper person to be your Speaker; and that you present such person whom you shall so choose here to-morrow (at an hour stated) for her Majesty's Royal approbation." This being done, again the clerk bows, and the Commons retire, as bidden, to "the place where they are to sit."

Thus far, then, have we got; the House is not organised yet, but is ordered, by her Majesty, or her Majesty's Commissioners, speaking by command, to begin the process of organisation. On arrival at "the place where they are to sit," some member on the Government side of the House, but not a member of the Government, rises to propose a fit and proper person to be the Speaker of the House—no, not a member of the Government, the House chooses its own Speaker, and must not in appearance be dictated to by the Crown. It is true the Government has determined who shall be its candidate, and even selected his proposer and seconder; all this is well known, but still the form must be kept up, if we have not the substance; we must assume a virtue if we have it not. When the proposer rises, Sir Denis le Marchant, the Clerk of the House, does not call him by name, but, rising, points to him with his finger. The philosophy of this would seem to be that, as this is a new Parliament, the clerk cannot be expected to know the names of the members; but there may have been some other reason, quite occult now, lying far down in backward-stretching vistas of time, and altogether obscured by the mists of antiquity. The nomination of the Speaker performed, the leader of the House generally rises to support the nomination; and, if there be no second candidate, the House, with loud voice, "calls" the member proposed to the chair; whereupon he, having been meanwhile sitting in his place on the benches, rises, expresses "his sense of the honour proposed to be conferred upon him, and submits himself to the House." And then there comes another "call," and the proposer and seconder approach the Speaker elect and conduct him to the chair. And now, of course, he must return thanks for the honour done him; and this he proceeds to do very much in the stereotyped phrase adopted at a public dinner by a guest when returning thanks to those who have just drunk his health. He also "expresses his gratitude," "his humble acknowledgments," "his true sense of the honour," &c. The election being thus far complete, the Sergeant-at-Arms takes the mace from under and lays it upon the table. When two candidates are proposed, the business is conducted much in the same way as other business is. Sir Denis le Marchant puts the question, "That the member first proposed do take the chair." Debate ensues, and a division takes place. If the member first proposed have a majority, he is conducted to the chair. If he should be in a minority, then the clerk puts the question that the second candidate proposed do take the chair, which, being decided, he of course goes to the chair. There has been no contest for the speakership since 1839, when Sir Charles Shaw Lefevre, now Lord Eversley, beat Mr. Goulbourn by 317 to 299.

ELECTS A SPEAKER.

The House now, then, has a Speaker? No, not yet; only a Speaker elect. Consent of her Majesty must be obtained to the choice before he can become a full-blown Speaker. And accordingly, on the following day, Black Rod having duly summoned the House again to the bar of the Lords, Mr. Speaker elect, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms with the mace and followed by the members, proceeds to the Upper House to present himself to the Sovereign. But please to observe that, being as yet but Speaker in the bud, the Sergeant-at-Arms does not carry his mace on his shoulder, but across his arm. Significant emblem, that; come down to us from the time when Majesty used occasionally to refuse assent to the choice of the faithful Commons and send them back to choose another! Majesty never does this now—not has done it, indeed, for nearly 200 years. And if our present Sovereign were to refuse her assent, would her faithful Commons submit? Questionable, I think. Her gracious Majesty, however, we are quite sure, will never put them to the test. This, again, is one of those old ceremonials the life of which has long since died out; but, because the life of them is gone, would we have them abolished? By no means. On the contrary, we would have them religiously preserved, as so many memorials of past times, keeping ever alive in our memories, as they ought to be in every Englishman's memory, the struggles of our ancestors to obtain the freedom which the House of Commons now enjoys and the power which it now exercises.

ORGANISED.

When Mr. Speaker elect, with the members behind him, arrives at the bar of the Lords, he then addresses himself to the representatives of Majesty:—"In obedience to her Majesty's commands, her Majesty's faithful Commons, in the exercise of their undoubted right and privilege, have proceeded to the election of a Speaker; and, as the object of their choice, he now presents himself at your bar, and submits himself, with all humility, to her Majesty's approbation." Whereupon the Lord Chancellor assures him "that her Majesty most fully approves and confirms him as Speaker." And then Mr. Speaker—no longer merely Speaker elect, but Speaker full-blown—lays claim, on behalf of the Commons, "by humble petition, to all their ancient and undoubted rights and privileges;" and—these being conferred, of course—Mr. Speaker bows and retires; and the Sergeant-at-Arms, shouldering the mace now, marches back to the place whence he came; and, having arrived there, the Speaker reports to the House the approval of her Majesty, and repeats his "most respectful acknowledgment for the high honour they have done him." He then puts the House in mind that the first thing to be done is to take and subscribe the oaths prescribed by law, and, standing upon the upper steps, he himself first takes and subscribes these oaths. The members do not take the oaths one at a time, but in batches of thirty or forty, and then, one by one, proceed to the table and subscribe their names in a book. The swearing will go on from twelve to four every day. Sunday excepted, till the 6th. The time for taking the oaths is limited by Act of Parliament to the hours between nine and four o'clock. On the 6th, her Majesty will come down and deliver her Royal speech.

Imperial Parliament.

Parliament was opened by Royal Commission on Thursday. The usual forms having been gone through, the only business in the House of Lords was the swearing-in of members.

In the

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Right Hon. W. Mansell moved the re-election as Speaker of the Right Hon. John Evelyn Denison, and paid a compliment to him for the manner in which he had previously discharged his duties.

Earl Grosvenor having seconded the motion,

Mr. Bright rose for the purpose of making a suggestion with reference to the practice of requiring members of the House who accept invitations to official dinners and parties to appear at them in Court dress. Many members might think this a trifling matter, but he hoped that the practice would be done away with.

Mr. Gladstone sympathised with the remarks of Mr. Bright, and assured the hon. gentleman that any suggestion touching either the dignity or the comfort of the House would be received by Mr. Denison, should he be chosen to the chair.

Mr. Denison, having acknowledged the honour done him, was conducted to the chair, and received the congratulations of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli, both of whom alluded in feeling terms to the loss the House had sustained by the death of Lord Palmerston.

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THE RIGHT SORT OF WORKHOUSE REFORM.

"IT was always yet the trick of our English nation," quoth Falstaff, "if they have a good thing, to make it too common." It may with equal truth be said, that it has ever been a characteristic of our English nation that when they take up a notion they carry it to extremes. We usually begin in social matters either by doing too much or doing nothing at all—most frequently the latter; and when we discover our mistake we run to extremes, and either do a great deal too much or cease action altogether. We don't seem to have the knack of hitting on a happy middle course. The *juste milieu* does not appear to come natural to us, except in politics. In personal and social matters we pay little heed to the moral taught in the poet's story of the "Hermit": still to welcome, but with less of cost, seems foreign to our nature. In intercourse with each other and with strangers, we are either coldly reserved or we are "gushingly" familiar; in dispensing hospitality, we are either meagre or we are profuse; when solicited for charity, we either button up our pockets and surlily refuse or we give our money with heedless and undiscriminating lavishness. In our loves and in our hates we are equally intense, and generally equally unreasoning. We have little of the characteristic of the Laodiceans—we are seldom "neither cold nor hot." We are either frigid as an icicle or we are boiling up to fever heat. We are slow to move, but when we get into motion we go ahead with a vengeance.

Thus, there was a time when we degraded and oppressed the negro; and now we are, some of us, inclined to elevate the Ethiopian above ourselves, and to make a sort of ebony god of him. We once, too, utterly neglected our criminals, and allowed them to be treated worse than brute beasts. To the wickedness and folly of this we were aroused by the efforts of philanthropists like Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, Wilberforce, and Clarkson; and then we rushed to the opposite extreme of pampering rogues till their lot was better than that of the hard-working honest poor, and petting them till they have well-nigh become our masters. We have become so excessively humanitarian, that we shall soon, we suppose, be ashamed to inflict any punishment whatever for crime. A murderer under sentence of death is an object of intense interest to us, and we must needs be informed of all his sayings and doings. A thief suffering penal servitude commands more sympathy and receives more care than the hard-toiling labourers in our fields. The rogue in prison is better lodged, and clothed, and fed

than many honest and industrious workmen out of it. We are even forming associations to enable discharged convicts to get a new start in the world—a kindness which we give ourselves no trouble to confer on those who have never committed an offence. The aims of convicts'-friend associations may be laudable, to a certain degree; but we must be careful not to let our benevolent impulses carry us too far, lest we offer a premium for crime and put honesty at a discount.

In like manner as we have dealt with criminals have we dealt and are dealing with paupers. We permitted the poor to be neglected and abused, and, having become aware to the fact, we are in danger of running into the mistake of treating them too well. Exposure of abuses in our workhouses has excited something like a pauper mania amongst us; and we are seemingly inclined to overdo humanitarianism, and, neglecting all rules of discrimination, let our paupers, whatever their character, get the upper hand of us. We must be careful to guard against this folly. The horrors discovered to exist in the Lambeth Workhouse and elsewhere should not blind us to the fact that many—perhaps most—paupers have brought their poverty upon themselves, and have no right to fare sumptuously, or even comfortably, at the expense of the diligent and the prudent. What is necessary and decent, we are bound for our own sakes to provide for the poor, whatever be their antecedents. But society is not bound to do more; and it is entitled to see that the provision made for the poor is not appropriated by the non-necessitous and non-deserving. We must never forget that there are among the applicants for relief many who are neither necessitous nor deserving. For this purpose proper checks and sufficient tests must be devised, and the rules laid down rigidly adhered to. To accomplish this, competent officers must be employed. And it is here that workhouse reform is most wanted. Old worn-out paupers are not the sort of persons to be intrusted with the administration of the internal economy of workhouses and casual wards. Men of experience and firmness should be employed, who are competent to discriminate between the various classes of applicants and to exercise authority and enforce order and decency. Had such officers been stationed in the casuals' shed at the Lambeth Workhouse, such scenes as those described by the writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette* could never have occurred. The decent poor would have been separated from the "roughs," the apparently healthy from the palpably diseased, the young and uncontaminated from known and hardened criminals. Cleanliness would have been enforced; the apparatus for ablution would have been in proper condition; and order and discipline would have been maintained, instead of the disgusting ribaldry, profanity, and utter blackguardism which reigned unchecked in that pandemonium besouth the Thames. The labour-test, too, would be something other than a mere sham if the duty of enforcing it were intrusted to men who both could and would perform it. The warders in our correctional prisons have a worse class of persons under their charge than are the bulk of our paupers, either regular or casual; and yet two warders are sufficient to preserve discipline and order in dormitories where as many as two hundred desperadoes sleep. Why cannot the same be done in the casual wards of workhouses? Simply, because the right men are not appointed to the work. Till the right men, with proper authority, are appointed, the work will not be efficiently performed. There is no real reason, were proper measures adopted, why one man should do another man's work, or be defiled by another's impurity either of body or mind. These are matters, however, about which our present workhouse officials seem to know little and to care less.

But the truth is, that the mischief begins at the top and permeates downwards. The Poor-Law Board lacks power to enforce its mandates, the guardians lack capacity or will to do their duty, the workhouse officers are incompetent and careless, the law is disobeyed or defied by those who should enforce it; the genuine poor suffer, and the sham poor—the rogues who spend their money in debauchery and lodge and feed at the public expense—follow the example set them, and laugh at the whole affair while they take advantage of—and abuse—the provision made for others. To remedy existing evils it is necessary—1, That more power should be given to the Poor-Law Board and its officers; 2, that a better and more intelligent class of men should be got to act as guardians, or, failing that, the local boards should be abolished altogether; 3, that trained, efficient, intelligent, and firm officers should be intrusted with the internal management of workhouses; 4, that warders capable of maintaining order and discipline, and invested with the requisite authority, should be stationed in the several wards, particularly those appropriated to casuals; 5, that a system of classification should be adopted that will, as far as possible, separate the honest from the vicious, the diseased from the healthy; and, 6, that the application of the labour-test should be intrusted to officers who will do their duty themselves and not delegate it to others. Were our workhouses reformed in this fashion, we should have proper care taken of the poor, we should have fewer workhouse scandals, and, probably, lighter rates.

THE NOVEL-WRITERS OF THE DAY.—It is a curious circumstance, says an Irish paper, that at this time nearly all the serial stories in the leading magazines are being written by Irish authors or by authors of Irish extraction. Thus, that of the *Cornhill*, "Armadale," is by Wilkie Collins, whose father, the painter, was an Irishman; that of *Blackwood*, "Sir Brooke Fosbrooke," is by Mr. Lever; that in *Macmillan* is by the Hon. Mrs. Norton, the daughter of "Tom Sheridan"; that in *All the Year Round*, "The Second Mrs. Tillootson," is by Mr. Percy Fitzgerald; that in the *Dublin University*, by Mr. J. S. Le Fanu; that in *Once a Week*, by Mrs. Trafford, author of "George Geith"; that in the *Shilling Magazine*, by the same; that of *Temple Bar*, by Mr. Wills (Irish also), and by Miss Braddon, who, it is rumoured, is of Irish extraction.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to appoint Lord Dunfermline, Dr. John Brown, and Mr. John Tait, Sheriff of Linlithgowshire, &c., as additional members of the Royal Commission upon Education in Scotland.

PRINCE ALFRED, it is expected, will take his seat in the House of Lords as a peer of the realm before the Session is over.

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA arrived at Pesth on Monday. They had a favourable reception.

THE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN has requested the Empress Eugénie to accept the medal of Civil Merit, in recognition of her Majesty's noble courage and truly Christian charity in visiting the cholera wards of the Paris hospitals.

M. VICTOR HUGO has a new romance in the press; the title of it is "Les Travailleurs de la Mer."

DR. FORBES WINSLOW, who has suffered somewhat severely from injuries inflicted by a fall from his horse, has sufficiently recovered to resume his professional duties.

DR. CULLEN has issued a pastoral, in which he repudiates the suggested endowment of the Catholic Church and cautions his flock against all kinds of secret societies.

ENGLISH TRAVELLERS IN AUSTRIA no longer require to have their passports countersigned by the Austrian Minister in London.

THE DEATH OF MR. GIBSON, the sculptor, is again announced as having occurred on Saturday last.

NEGOTIATIONS for the formation of a new corps of Austrian volunteers for Mexico will soon be brought to a conclusion.

MADAME SAQUI, the rope-dancer, whose fame dates from the beginning of this century, died on Wednesday in Paris, in her eightieth year.

THE *Temple Bar* magazine has been purchased by Mr. Bentley, of New Burlington-street.

THE NECESSITIES OF THE PAPAL TREASURY are so great that it has been resolved to levy a light tax on all vessels entering Roman ports.

THE INHABITANTS OF ST. KILDIA being in a starving condition, H.M.S. Jackal has been dispatched from Greenock with provisions.

THE BOROUGH MAGISTRATES OF TRURO had not a single case brought before them between the 8th and 29th of January.

MR. HENRY HUSSEY VIVIAN, one of the members for Glamorganshire, is about to be made a Baronet. Mr. Vivian is the head of the wealthy copper-smelting firm of Vivian and Sons. He has represented Glamorgan for the last nine years, and previously sat for Truro.

A CHICAGO CLERGYMAN missed his stockings on Christmas morning, and after a long search found one on each horn of a new milch cow, which had been presented to him by his parishioners, and ornamented in this way to indicate that it was a Christmas gift. [Query, had the rev. gentleman only one pair?]

AT THE EXAMINATION recently held at South Kensington for free students in the Royal School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering the successful candidates were Thomas Turnbull, Whitby, Yorkshire, and Adrian Vizetelly, London.

A FIVE-ACT HISTORICAL PLAY has, we understand, been written and printed privately by Mr. Martin Tupper with a view to its representation in the spring. The subject is "The Life and Death of Raleigh." It is said to offer extraordinary opportunities for spectacular display.

THE CONSUMPTION OF WINES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, according to the returns of last year, reached a million gallons per month, which is just double what it was before the reduction of duties.

THE LAMBETH SHED, visited by an amateur, has been closed, and the casuals assigned to certain lodging-houses. In one of these a reporter of the *Daily News* found some twenty men and boys, all asleep on hay mattresses, all perfectly naked, and crowding together for warmth till they were packed on the floor like eels. The guardians of St. Pancras have just ordered that the female casuals shall have night-dresses, they having hitherto always slept naked.

A FEW DAYS AGO the Ballot Society wrote to Earl Russell, asking his Lordship to receive a deputation on the subject of the ballot. His Lordship has written in reply, declining to receive the deputation. He would receive it if he thought any advantage would be gained; but his opinions are, he says, well known, and no useful end would be served by his receiving the deputation.

COLONEL M'LEAN, Governor of Natal, there is reason to believe, is not dead, the report to that effect having been published in mistake. At the date of last advices, he had been ill, but was recovering.

THE GOVERNMENT have offered a reward of £1000 for such private information as will lead to the apprehension of Stephens, the Irish "Head Centre," in addition to the £1000 previously offered for his capture.

A COMMITTEE OF LEADING ACTORS is being formed for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of the late Mr. G. V. Brooke by establishing a life-boat, and building a house in connection with the Royal Dramatic College at Maybury, both to bear his name.

EXCAVATIONS NOW BEING MADE AT POMPEII have brought to light several vestiges of the ancient Christians. In the palace of the Edile Pansa, in the Via Fortuna, an unfinished sculptured cross has been found on one of the walls, as well as abusive inscriptions and caricatures ridiculing a crucified God.

A FUND is being raised in Ireland to purchase the Windele Manuscripts for the Royal Irish Academy. These manuscripts illustrate the language, history, antiquities, and folk-lore of Munster. They extend to 130 volumes, and are offered by Mr. Windle's executors for a hundred pounds.

THE CAPTAIN OF THE EMIGRANT-SHIP NEPTUNE is in custody at New York, charged with cruelty to his passengers and crew during the voyage from Liverpool to that port. Several affidavits proving the horrible state of affairs during the passage have been sworn.

A MEETING OF DELEGATES from various metropolitan vestries was held on Tuesday for the purpose of taking measures to obtain an amendment of the Gas Act in the interest of the consumers. Resolutions in accordance with the object of the meeting were unanimously passed.

GENERAL PRIM declines for the present all idea of visiting either France or England, and has memorialised the Portuguese Government for leave to stay a twelvemonth in the kingdom, giving his parole not to quit whatever city is appointed for his sojourn.

THE FOLLOWING PLAN FOR DEALING WITH THE FENIANS has been proposed:—"Allow and invite all Fenians to meet, armed, on a certain day upon the Curragh of Kildare, to choose a President of the Irish Republic. The voting will commence on the first day, the fighting on the second day, and on the third one Fenian will be left, who may then elect himself president and preside over himself."

A NEWSPAPER posted in Dublin a few days before last Christmas, and addressed to Filey, only arrived at its destination on Thursday morning week. The cause of this great delay arose from the writer having used the unnecessary word near—viz., "Filey, near York," which the Dublin official mistook for "New York," and consequently dispatched the newspaper to America, whence it has just been returned.

THE J. D. VISSER (Dutch barque), arrived at Singapore from Hong-Kong reports that in lat. 17 N. she passed the Pride of the Ganges standing in towards the China coast, with signal flying, "Mutiny on Board." The J. D. Visser signalled "Heave to and I will come to your assistance," the reply to which was not allowed. The Dutch vessel followed, but the Pride of the Ganges outsailed her, and when last seen the signal "Master over-board" was flying.

AN OLD DOCTOR OF MAGDEBURG has discovered the means of living a long time, and has left the information in his will to the world. He died at the age of 108. Here is the recipe of Dr. Fischwesler:—"Let the body recline as often as possible during the day quite flat on the ground, the head pointing due north and the feet due south, by which means the electric current will pass through the body; but by all means and in any situation let the bed be due north and south."

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE having moved the Government to remonstrate with the Shah of Persia on behalf of the Jews who were oppressed in that country, a letter from the Foreign Office to Sir Moses states that the Shah, on representations being made to him, has taken steps to put an end to the grievances of which the Jews complained.

MR. CLAY, M.P., addressing some of his constituents at Hull, has developed a scheme of reform which he intends to embody in a bill and propose to the House of Commons. He suggests that, in addition to the lowering of the franchise by the coming Government Reform Bill, a vote should be obtained by any man who could pass a simple examination similar to, but easier than, that undergone by the inferior officers of Customs. He calculates that this franchise would add to the constituency half a million of voters who would not be brought in by any rental suffrage.

REFORM MEETING AT MANCHESTER.—A great reform meeting was held at Manchester on Tuesday night. It was held under the auspices of the National Reform Union, and was attended by a large number of influential persons from various parts of the district. Mr. George Wilson occupied the chair. Six members of Parliament took part in the proceedings—Messrs. Bazley, T. B. Potter, Hibbert, R.N.; Phillips, Whitworth, and Cheetham; also Mr. E. A. Leatham, and Dr. Sandwith, of Kars. The opinion of the meeting was unanimously in favour of accepting no measure less comprehensive than the bill of 1860, which embodied the principle of a £6 rental franchise.

MR. EUGENE RIMMEL, ever ingenious and ever tasteful, has just issued a pretty bit of illuminated flower-printing, called "Violet Modesty." The central design is surrounded by a handsome embossed border, the whole being redolent of the odour of the sweet-scented violet.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

MR. GOSCHEN has taken his seat in the Cabinet. Twenty years Lord Palmerston was climbing to this height: Mr. Goschen has leaped to it at one bound. It used to be thought that there was a deep, wide, impassable gulf between a City counting-house and the Cabinet; but Earl Russell has proved that this was only an imaginary gulf. By-the-way, I hear that it was on Mr. Gladstone's recommendation, or suggestion, that this appointment was given to Mr. Goschen. And one can with little difficulty suppose that this may be true. Mr. Goschen is a great financier, has done wonders in finance and, doubtless, contemplates more. Cabinet Ministers are not, as a rule, adepts at finance, and it is very likely that Mr. Gladstone has had some hard struggles in the Cabinet to induce his colleagues to consent to his bold proposals. What wonder, then, that he should wish to have such an able ally at his back as Mr. Goschen? I understand that there is still a good deal of jealousy rankling in the breasts of some of the members of the Government, and also of certain members not in the Government, who think that they ought to be in. But it is hardly likely that this jealousy will find expression in the House. Mr. Goschen's appointment, and the feelings engendered thereby, will probably be sharply and freely criticised in the tobacco parliament down below, but not in the House above. Etiquette, and I may add gentlemanly feeling, will keep members silent upon the subject there. Mr. Disraeli may hurl an indirect taunt or sarcasm at this unusual precedent; but I should hardly think he will, especially if it be true that Mr. Goschen is one of his own race, as some men say he is. In that case, the Conservative leader will view the advance of Mr. Goschen to the high offices of state as another triumph of the Caucasian race, and rejoice. The Liberal press has unanimously lauded the appointment; but amongst politicians opinions differ. "A strange appointment," said one to me the other day. "Earl Russell has, I consider, damaged his Government materially by making this Goschen a Cabinet Minister," said another; whilst a third, who has himself been a member of the Government, thinks that this bold step has strengthened the Ministry; and I think that in the House this latter opinion will be found to prevail.

Let no man believe a word that is written or said about the reform bill. Those most likely to know confess that they know nothing. The rumour that Earl Russell means to propose a £6 ratal qualification for boroughs may possibly be true, but it is very unlikely. It would be in the highest degree impolitic, and I may say foolish, to do no more than this. A £6 ratal qualification is equivalent to an £8 rental in some places, whilst in others it will be found to be higher than that. And, of course, such a settlement of the Reform question could be only temporary. Agitation for another Reform Bill would at once commence. However, I do not believe in this £6 ratal scheme; that is to say, I do not believe that this is the franchise to be proposed by the Government. It comes to us with no show of authority; whilst, as I have said, in quarters where the truth is likely to be known, if anywhere, nothing is known. Earl Russell is an old, experienced tactician, and the last man in the world to unmask his plans prematurely.

The *South-Eastern Gazette* tells us, on authority, that Lord Clarence Paget has not, and never had, any intention of giving up the representation of Sandwich or taking the command of the Channel Fleet; and it goes on to say, in confirmation of this, that no vacancy exists on any of our stations, nor is likely to exist for many months; and also that Lord Clarence Paget has been selected to move the Estimates in the ensuing Parliament. Methinks the lady doth protest too much. The *S.E. Gazette* might have been content to say that Lord Clarence has no intention, &c. To say that he never had, is going too far. The case may be this: There is no vacancy now on any of our naval stations, but there may be in a few months; and in a few months Parliament may—some say must—be dissolved; and then Lord Clarence may take the vacancy alluded to, and leave the electors to select somebody to fill up the vacancy at Sandwich; but, of course, it would not do for Lord Clarence to disclose this, because there may not be a vacancy in any of our fleets for a few months; or, if there should be, the Conservatives may be in power; and in that case Lord Clarence must, of course, stick to Sandwich. Lord Clarence is too good a player to show his hand; but I have no doubt that he holds this trump card of the Channel Fleet.

The Royal Gallery is to be closed when the Queen goes to open Parliament. Her Majesty will enter the House by the Peers' private staircase, and the public are to be strictly excluded. These are the orders given; and the necessary arrangements are in progress to carry them out.

As was quite to be expected, the adventures described by the writer of the papers entitled "A Night in a Workhouse," in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, have not only excited great interest, but have been productive of at least one attempt at imitation. But the difference between the earnest man and the sham was perhaps never better illustrated. A harness-maker, under the influence, as he alleged himself, of pothouse-derived courage, betook himself to the St. James's Workhouse. He got admission, but "funked" at the ordeal he saw awaited him; was discovered, searched, money found in his possession, and himself handed over to the police. So much for an imitator of one sort; but that is not the only kind of piracy which the "Night in the Workhouse" has induced. I have a copy of a publication of eight pages in which the "Gentleman Casual's" adventures are done into rhyme and sold for threepence—a pretty good price for putting other people's ideas into doggerel. The effusion is said to be by "M.A.", who, according to a circular which accompanies the brochure, is author of certain religious performances which I will not advertise by naming; but it is quite clear that "M. A." is thoroughly commercial in his views, and does not at all believe in doing good for its own sake. If he wants to "put money in his purse" by his rhymes, he should at least find his own materials, and not pilfer those of others. I am bound to say, however, that the points of the now famous letters are pretty well caught; but as for the rhyme, it is vile, as these specimen verses will show:—

I sallied forth the other night,
In a sad and piteous plight,
To do, as I considered right;
To sleep within a workhouse.

The "Swearing Club" was most profane,
While nought but tumult seemed to reign,
And decent men complained in vain;
'Twas no use in the workhouse.

Given a theme and ideas, he must be a dull dog indeed who could not "rhyme without ceasing" in this style. Even the resting times stipulated for by Touchstone in a like case would be unnecessary.

An advertisement announces the formation of a new club, to be called the Young England Club. Its object is to provide refreshment for members and their friends after the hours limited by statute for the keeping open of public-houses. The company of those individuals who find themselves unable to get enough to drink at taverns before one o'clock a.m. will no doubt be highly improving and entertaining. If, as the prospectus states, the club is to be for the benefit of gentlemen occupying chambers, the notion suggests itself that the sooner such gentlemen repair to their chambers before or after one o'clock the better for themselves and their friends.

The news that Gustave Doré is engaged on illustrations of the "Idylls of the King," and that those illustrations will be on his usual grand scale—the same size as the "Dante" and the "Perroult"—will be welcomed by all lovers of art. Some of the best of his drawings have belonged to such scenes as are offered him in Tennyson's greatest work—for instance the opening illustration in the January number of "Don Quixote," and those spirited cuts to "Jaufrey the Knight," which was, if I mistake not, the first book of his that made its way to England. There is little fear of Doré making a mistake which other illustrators of the "Idylls" have fallen into. He will not sacrifice the picturesque to antiquarian correctness in clothing Arthur and his knights in the cos-

tume of the real Arturian period. Such correctness may be laudable in history, but the Romances of the Round Table are of mediæval birth—the men and arms they describe are not early Saxon, but of the *Moyen Age*, made to do duty for an earlier period, as the Middle Age painters put the prodigal in doublet and hose, and dressed Noah like a burgomaster.

I paid a visit the other day to the studio of Mr. Gerrard Robinson, the woodcarver, of Duke-street, Manchester-square, and a very pleasant visit it was; for I saw there some of the finest wood-carvings I ever saw. They have none of the stiffness and heaviness of ordinary wood-carvings; and yet, though light and spirited, are not mere *tour de force* with the material—all is honest work. Mr. Robinson has a great deal of the artist in him; his designs are bold and masterly chalk-drawing, not mere workman's maps. It seems almost a pity that he has not given some time to clay and marble; for his figures possess merits we look for in vain in the works of many professed sculptors. One of his largest works, a sideboard representing in its panels all the history of Chevy Chase, a handsome piece of furniture, for which, I believe, the late Duke of Northumberland was in treaty, is a really extraordinary achievement. You may descend critically from the *ensemble* of the sideboard to the composition of the separate panels, and continue your examination to the groups and figures—ay, and down to their faces—and find nowhere a slackening of the masterhand or a want of the true artistic feeling. I shall be very much astonished if Mr. Robinson does not speedily make a wide reputation; in the mean time, I recommend my readers who happen to be in that direction to pay him a visit.

THE LOUNGER AT PARIS.

I have been lounging a few days in Paris, and I have returned with the firm conviction that there is no lounging-ground like it, whereas here, except in Pall-mall and St. James's-street, where can one lounge in comfort? There is but little news. More boulevards are rising, and the Emperor and his refractory cousin, it is said, are about to reconcile their differences, and "Monsieur mon cousin" will yet be president of the great exhibition. Apropos of the exhibition, I rode down to its site, which was all that I could see; the buildings and grounds are not yet visible, for the simple reason that they do not yet exist. A certain number of wheelbarrows, and a certain number of workmen, and some upturned earth, are but a poor sight; so I compensated myself by driving to Prince Napoleon's Roman house in the Champs Elysées, which is and has been for sale any time these two years. It is very beautiful, very complete, and all that; it possesses every convenience that an ancient Pompeian in a high state of classicity could have required, but it is hardly adapted to the wants of a modern Parisian, his wife, and family. It struck me that even the concierge sneered at it, and thought his own little lodge more comfortable. I wonder if anyone will ever buy it. It would be a nice toy for a Manchester millionaire desirous of producing an effect and encouraging the ancient baths and household furniture. The Channel was rough both when I crossed and re-crossed. Admirable as are the arrangements of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, they have not yet learned to control the weather. If they ever do, how comfortable will be the eleven hours' journey from London, the solid and smoky, to the most delightful capital in Europe!

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.**THE MAGAZINES.**

The question, "What will the Government do?" is the title of an article in *Blackwood*. The conclusion arrived at is that there will be a defeat upon the Jamaica question, followed, of course, by a change of "her Majesty's Constitutional advisers," and that the Reform question will not arise at all. The number contains a very happy paper in which Ariosto and Spenser are compared from the religious point of view; and we may remark, in passing, that any device, any selection of topic for the purpose of getting people to attend to the "Fairy Queen" is welcome and useful, so little is the book read. We are glad to meet "Miss Marjoribanks" again, after an absence of some months.

London Society contains at least one pleasant little story, "The Two Valentines"—unless, indeed, it should rather be called an expanded anecdote. The "Camp Life of a Magistrate in India" is not bad, too. Mr. Mark Lemon's "Up and Down in London Streets" is, of course, entertaining. We have read all this a hundred times before; but when shall we be tired of reading of St. Paul's as it was before the Great Fire; of Evil May Day; of Cheapside as Milton walked up and down it? The woodcuts are good.

In the story entitled "Christ Church Days," in the *Churchman's Family Magazine*, we are told, incidentally (it is by no means a bad story), that "Oxford dons would be horrified at the spectacle which Cambridge incessantly presents, of the undergraduates living in apartments." Really, now! Little things horrify little minds. When I was at Oxford I "horrified" a don by having over thirty valentines posted to him from different parts of England, taking care that he should get them all by the same post. I have reason to believe that he was very poorly after it. If this should meet his eye—

The *Argosy* is conspicuous this month for variety, and I think five or six articles, out of eleven, are by women. "Griffith Gaunt" is full of vigour and excitement. The next best thing in the number is "The Future," by "M. B. S." Surely it is no secret that this is Miss Smedley, the "M. S." or "S. M." author of "Twice Lost," to say nothing of those noble verses to Garibaldi which we all remember?

Of *Good Words* it is scarcely possible to say anything too strong in the way of praise. Mrs. Oliphant's story, "Madonna Mary"; Mr. Perowne on that "Prayer" question which has lately been knocked about so much; and "The Old Yeomanry Weeks," by the author of "Citoyenne Jacqueline," are among the best things of the month. In the course of a very interesting paper, Dean Alford says that "he lives most usefully who is imbued with the ideas of his own age, living up to its standard," &c. Now, how does Dean Alford know who lives most usefully?

In Mr. Beeton's *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine* the paper about poor John Clare, and that about "The Depths of Poverty," are so admirable that I gladly point them out as deserving much more attention than they are (one fears) likely to get in a magazine which gives fashion-plates.

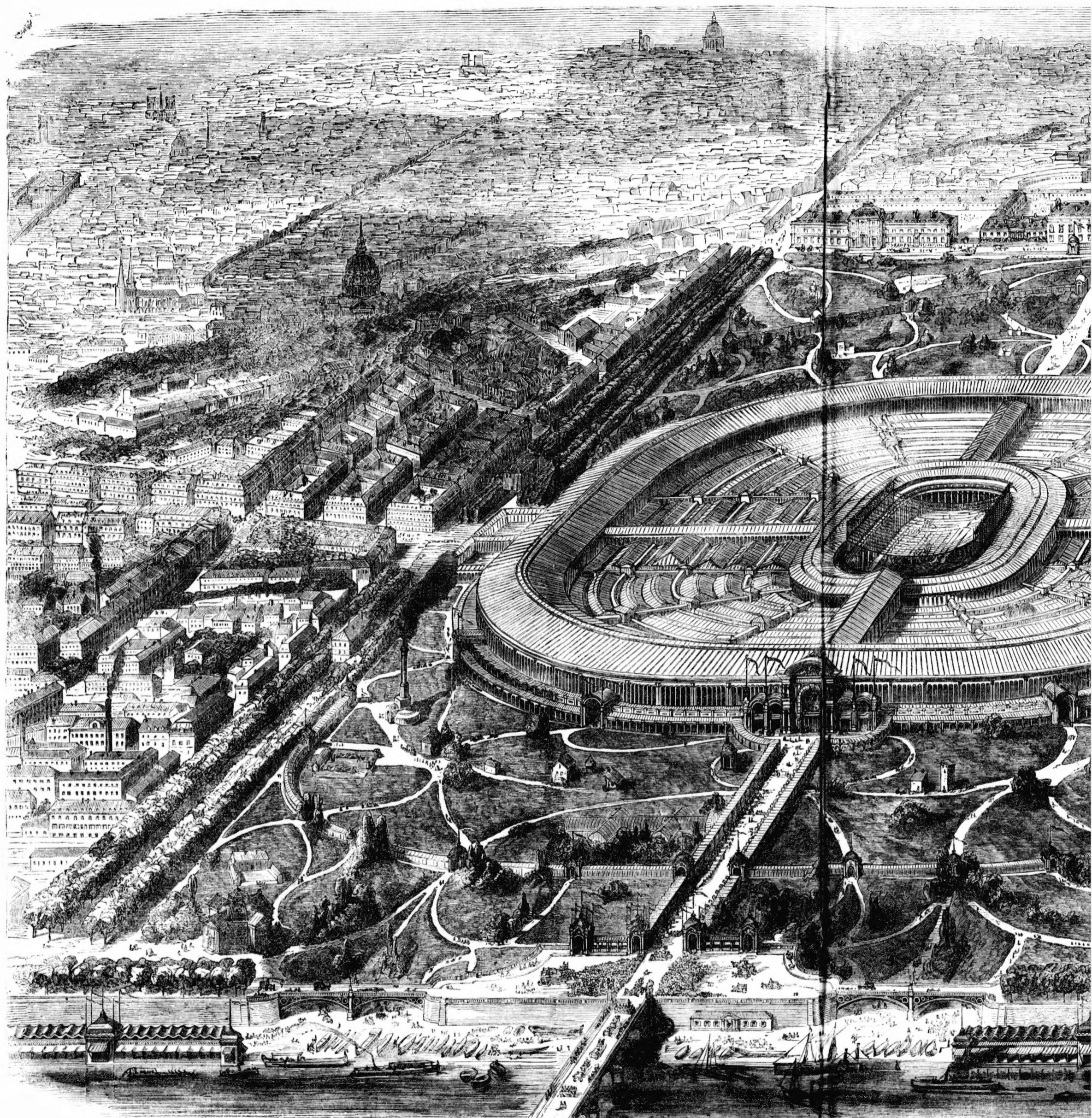
The *Cornhill*, *Macmillan*, and *Temple Bar* have not yet re-ac'd me.

In this column, where I once took the liberty of saying a word in defence (not justification) of Mr. Ruskin, I take an opportunity of noticing Mr. Ruskin's "Ethics of the Dust: Lectures and Dialogues upon Crystallisation" (Smith, Elder, and Co.). As I have made it plain, Mr. Editor, speaking in my own person, that I think Mr. Ruskin has received some unjust treatment of late, there will be no risk of misunderstanding if I say that this book is a disappointing one, and, in some places, I think quite wrongheaded. The machinery of it seems to be quite unworkable, too, in hands like Mr. Ruskin's. A book signed by this name must contain wise and beautiful things, and must be, on the whole, desirable and lovable; in fact, I have read it through, and know others have read it through, with moments of keen delight; but it is not to be called a satisfactory book.

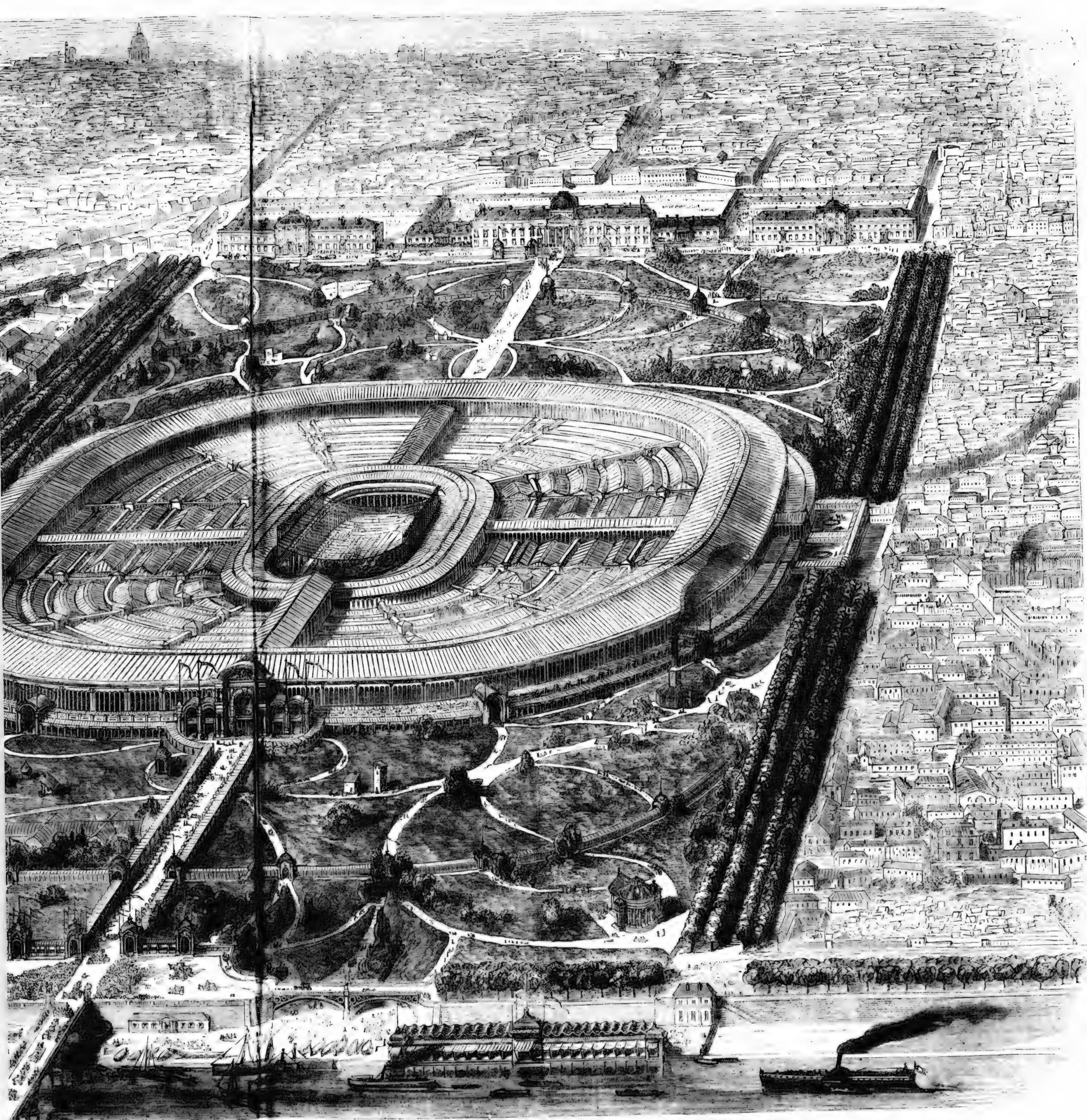
THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

There is positively no novelty this week. While Messrs. Webster, Wiggin, Vining, Byron, and Fechter, insist upon running pieces for three and six months at a time, the public must not be surprised if the dramatic critic is only occasionally called upon to exercise his craft upon dramatic productions.

A Mr. Fleming Norton is giving an occasional entertainment in aid of various charities. The entertainment is in "character," after the manner of Mr. Woodin's, and although Mr. Fleming Norton is at present but an amateur, he gives evidence of an imitative talent which is worth cultivating if he intends, as I understand he does, to take to the "boards" professionally.



PLAN OF THE BUILDING FOR THE UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION AT PARIS IN 1867.



PLAN OF THE BUILDING FOR THE UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION AT PARIS IN 1867.

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THE PALACE FOR THE PARIS UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION
OF 1867.

We this week publish a plan of the proposed Palace for the Universal Exhibition, which is to be opened in Paris in 1867. The arrangements for the Exhibition, and the works on the building and park which is to surround it, are making progress. Workmen have been engaged upon the site, in the Champs de Mars, for months past, and the masonry of the Palace is expected to be completed early this spring. The Palace, which is to be the grandest structure which has ever been erected for a like purpose, will have the form of a broad ellipse, and will be surrounded by a green sward to cover the whole extent of the Champ de Mars. In the centre of the building will be laid out a garden, from which will radiate naves to the circumference; they being intersected by circular avenues running around the whole building. The radii from the centre will serve to distinguish the different countries, as each nation will have appropriated to it a number in proportion to its importance, while the circular passages will be devoted to products of the same kind. So that to examine the different productions of a country the visitor must pass from the centre to the circumference, or vice versa; while to examine the same products as manufactured by different States—silks, for instance—he will only have to follow the circular avenue reserved for that article; he can thus pass in review the display of that kind of goods of all the different countries. As the circular passages become smaller by degrees as they approach the centre, the most valuable objects, and those which occupy the least space, will be contained in the inner circles, and the passages near the circumference will be reserved for the articles of greater bulk. Consequently, the works of art will occupy the first gallery around the garden, and the next will be reserved for artistic manufactures; then will come furniture; next the gallery devoted to articles of clothing in silk, wool, linen, or cotton; and this will be successively followed by those of raw materials, instruments and modes of production, articles of food, &c. The building is to be surrounded by a park, within which will be placed living animals, plants, and other objects which could not be easily housed in the building.

A keen controversy has arisen as to the origination of the peculiar design of the building to admit of the double system of classification—by country and by character of the objects exhibited—which it has been resolved to adopt. Into the merits of this controversy we cannot enter at length, but may mention Mr. Maw, of Broseley, and Mr. E. T. Payne, claim to have first ventilated the idea upon which the Paris Exhibition building is being constructed. They published a plan of such an erection some years ago, and they allege that the French Commissioners have appropriated the notion without acknowledgment or consideration of any kind. The commissioners, on the other hand, deny that they have been indebted to Messrs. Maw and Payne, although they admit—which, indeed, cannot be denied—that there is a similarity in the principle followed in each design. This, we believe, is a fair statement, in few words, of the point in dispute between Messrs. Maw and Payne and the French Commissioners; but into the proofs and arguments on each side we cannot, of course, enter.

A report from the Commissioners, published recently, states that among the propositions addressed to the Commission were a project of an international theatre, in which should be represented dramatic productions of divers kinds and of divers nations; and also a project of international concerts, at which should be executed, by artistes from all nations, the most remarkable musical works of all descriptions and of all periods. It was suggested that the realisation of these two projects would afford an opportunity for useful comparison in regard to the theatrical and musical arts, and for actors and artistes to achieve still higher eminence in their respective professions. The Commission have examined these projects with attention; but, before coming to a definite resolution, they invite all persons who might be disposed to take part in such concours to submit their ideas and propositions. They wish it to be understood that their programme is by no means limited, but will include all establishments having for their object the recreation and diversion of visitors of all countries, of all ages, and of all conditions. This is an admirable idea; and if it can be carried out it will add greatly to the attractions of Paris next year. As English and Americans are sure to assemble there in unprecedentedly large numbers, it might be a good speculation for some of our actors and musicians to communicate with the Commission, make suggestions, and express themselves ready to take a part in the concours. It is intended that there shall be a communication by railway between a central part in Paris and one of the annexes of the Exhibition. In one annexe there will be an international club or assembly; and all sorts of refreshment, as well as all varieties of useful information, will be provided for visitors. In the completeness of its arrangement, and in its combined attractions, the Exhibition of next year will be far and away superior to any of its predecessors, either here or in Paris.

DR. COLENSO.—The Archbishop of Canterbury has taken a grave step—that of virtually recognising the “independence” of the colonial Churches. His Grace writes to the Dean of Natal that he does not see how the Dean and clergy can accept Dr. Colens as their Bishop; and, as the Church in South Africa has been pronounced by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to be just as independent as any of the Nonconformist communities, he concludes that it is competent to elect its own Bishop, without reference to the authorities in England, either civil or ecclesiastical. According to the latest report, the orthodox Bishop of Capetown is solemnly and formally about to curse and excommunicate his heretical brother.

SUNDAY EVENINGS FOR THE PEOPLE.—A movement which was inaugurated at St. Martin’s Hall, a few weeks ago, under the title of “Sunday Evenings for the People,” which consisted of scientific and other lectures by eminent men, followed by selections of sacred music, has come to a somewhat abrupt termination. After Dr. Hodgson had delivered a lecture on Sunday night, it was stated that the “Lord’s Day Observance Society” had determined to put these gatherings down on the ground that they were public entertainments and amusements, contrary to the provisions of the Act 21 George III, cap. 49. With a view to test the legality of this, the committee of the recent movement have commenced a subscription to defray the expenses of obtaining the opinion of the Court of Queen’s Bench as to whether the lectures and musical selections which have recently been given in St. Martin’s Hall on Sunday evenings are an infringement of the Act of Parliament in question or not. In the mean time, although other lectures were announced for to-morrow and subsequent Sundays, the gatherings will be discontinued.

A TURKISH PRINCE.—Last October an Oriental-looking personage, representing himself to be Prince Kalmaki, the son of a large landowner in Turkey, went to the Grand Hotel at Marseilles, without a retinue, and with scant luggage. He was installed in the handsomest set of rooms, which had previously been occupied by the Czar. Next morning he called at the Turkish Consulate and left his card, and the Vice-Consul returned the visit. The Prince stated that he wished to buy horses for his father, and was introduced to Carboval, the large horse-dealer, who collected his best horses for examination from Avignon and Lyons. The Prince selected several horses at high prices, and subsequently he wrote a telegraphic despatch addressed Ali Pacha, Constantinople, stating the number and price of the horses he had bought, and desiring the Pacha to remit funds immediately to pay for them. This despatch was taken to the telegraph-office by one of the clerks of the hotel. The landlord, completely deluded, lent the Prince £4000, and Carboval lent him £500. A tailor executed his orders to the extent of £500. The Prince, during his visit to Marseilles, fell in love with a respectable young lady, whom he had seen on the road in company with two nuns, and opened negotiations for a marriage. The offer of the Prince was accepted by the lady’s brother on her behalf, and an appointment was made at Marseilles to sign the marriage contract. The Prince, intoxicated with the happiness that awaited him, at once made his intended bride some presents, and volunteered to sign two bills of £100,000, as an instalment of the settlement he intended to make upon her. Marriages, however, in France are not hastily made. The brother of the young lady made inquiries at the Turkish Consulate. The answer was that nothing whatever was known at the Consulate about the Prince; that his visit had been returned without inquiry, and that was all; but that as to the validity of the bills, the parties taking them must decide entirely on their own judgment. The mishap put an end to the princely career of the guest of the Grand Hotel. Confidence was suddenly withdrawn from him; bills poured in at once, and he was constrained to confess that he had no resources in the world. When he appeared the other day at the bar of the Correctional Police, on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences, it was proved that he was a Levantine named Tanca, a subject of the Bey of Tunis, and that he had lately come out of prison at Cairo. The false Prince was sentenced to two years’ imprisonment.

FINE ARTS.

MR. SELOUS'S PICTURES OF JERUSALEM.

TWO pictures of great interest to the Biblical scholar—indeed, to every reader of the Bible—are now exhibited at Mr. McLean’s new and commodious gallery in the Haymarket. The first is a view of Jerusalem as it appeared in the time of our Saviour—a very careful restoration, in which Mr. Selous has been assisted by no less an authority than Dean Stanley, and to the excellence of which testimony has been borne by those competent to give an opinion on the subject. The second picture is a view of Jerusalem as it is at the present day, the accuracy of which is vouched by late residents. The two pictures therefore form a most valuable pair, and the engravings from them, which are now in course of preparation, will be most useful to the student of Scripture history.

The restoration of the city is a bird’s-eye view taken from the Mount of Olives, and gives a noble idea of the magnificence and extent of the various buildings which made Jerusalem in the time of Herod the very empress of all the cities of the civilised world. The foreground is filled with a group representing the Saviour riding into the city on an ass, with the crowd strewing palm-branches along the road. The group, of course, is useful as giving a date to the picture, but we question whether even that is a sufficiently strong reason for its introduction. It disturbs the quiet solemnity of the whole, without being sufficiently important in size or treatment to take the chief place in so large a canvas. The picture is, in fact, divided into two by this incident, and we could well afford to part with the procession. With this exception the picture is a very fine one, the distance is well managed, and the quiet sky bending over all completes the harmony, and gives force to the impression of sacred serenity and placid might which the view of the Holy City conveys. The painting of the gleaming rocks in the foreground is clever, and there are many excellent passages in various parts of the picture; but its chief value, of course, is as a view of the capital of the chosen nation rather than as a work of art, although it has considerable merit as a painting; indeed only David Roberts, perhaps, could have mastered such a task as well as Mr. Selous has done it.

The second view is a curious contrast to the first. The crumbling walls, the barren rocks, and stunted trees convey forcibly the desolation which broods over the once glorious city. This is by far the better picture as a painting, and is taken from a more natural and agreeable point of view, a little lower down the Mount of Olives. Beyond the city the grey olive-woods clothe the slopes, and thence the eye travels over a wide tract of undulating land to the distant horizon. All is sombre and grave, as though Nature herself mourned for the Fallen City. In this picture, too, we think the effect would have been better if Mr. Selous had been more sparing of figures in the foreground. This minor objection, however, does not detract from the real value of the work. The two paintings are really remarkable for the success with which so great and so extremely difficult a subject has been handled. It would be easy, perhaps, to find fault with details, or to condemn them sweepingly for not being what they do not pretend to be—examples of the highest school of art. But they deserve great praise as additions of real value to our knowledge of the history of a nation which, in its flower and in its decay, in its prosperity and its desolation, has been a peculiar people, moulding the world and directing civilisation—a people chosen of the Almighty to take a prominent part in controlling the destinies of earth.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT EXHIBITION.—It is intended that this exhibition shall be opened about the third week in April and close in August. For the months of April, May, and June the admission will be 1s. each person on all days except Tuesdays, when it will be 2s. 6d. Season tickets are to be issued at £1 each, which will also be available for the private view. After June the exhibition will be opened to the public on the same terms as at the South Kensington Museum.

A SCOTTISH SCULPTOR STABBED AT ROME.—A letter from Rome of the 20th ult. says:—“Our eminent Scottish sculptor, Lawrence McDonald, has just been stabbed on the staircase of Mr. Watson, with whom he was to have spent the evening. He had remarked on quitting the restaurant where he dined that three persons followed him, but he had paid no attention to the incident. On reaching the second floor of Mr. Watson’s residence he was suddenly seized, dragged down, and a stiletto driven into his neck just between the jugular vein and the carotid artery. His shouts for help brought the servants with lights, wherein the assassins were scared off and decamped. Happily a physician was one of Mr. Watson’s guests, who immediately dressed the wound, which it is hoped will not prove fatal.”

AN UNREHEARSED “SCENE.”—During the performance of the burlesque, “Fra Diavolo,” the other evening, at the Theatre Royal, at Bradford, Mr. Lewis Ball, the stage-manager, suddenly appeared at the footlights, to announce that Mr. W. J. Broughton, an actor, who had appeared in a former part of the performance, would not again appear, because he was drunk. Mr. Broughton appeared at the same moment in the pit, taking a position where he could be seen by the whole audience, and at once warmly repelled the imputation of drunkenness, telling the audience that they had already seen his conduct in the play, and saw him then, and appealing to them to judge as to the truthfulness of the allegation made to his disadvantage. He added that he had dressed to appear as “Bepo,” in the burlesque; and the reason he did not appear was that the stage-manager had struck him a “vile blow,” of which he had the marks on his face. Mr. Ball denied that he had struck Mr. Broughton, and stated that a quarrel had arisen in the green-room in consequence of Mr. Broughton having got possession of part of a costume belonging to Mr. Darcey Read, and, when requested to give it up, he refused to do so, and made use of violent language. Mr. Broughton repeated his former statement, and announced his determination not to reappear on those boards. Mr. Ball called other actors to the footlights, and appealed to them whether he had struck Mr. Broughton. They supported his version of the story as to the quarrel. The audience, to whose verdict Mr. Broughton had appealed, appeared to regard him as ill-used, and intimated, in unmistakable terms, that the charge of drunkenness was unwarranted. Mr. Broughton, evidently mollified by the judgment of the audience, then retired; and the burlesque proceeded, Mr. Bestow, another actor, taking the part of Bepo, which he read.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held, on Thursday, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Baring, Esq., M.P., in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, the expense, amounting to £20 19s. 6d., was ordered to be paid on the service of the China life-boat of the institution, stationed at Teignmouth, in rescuing the crew of eight men of the ship Jessie, of London, and three of the crew of the brig Cheshire Witch, of London, during the late fearful gales in Torbay. The committee decided to establish at Brixham, Devon, forthwith, a life-boat station, the city of Exeter liberally contributing to the cost of the same. Rewards amounting to £183 were also voted to the crews of the following life-boats for saving life from shipwreck during the late fearful gales:—The Whitburn life-boat saved one of the crew of the barge Victorine, of Ostend; the St. Ives and Penzance life-boats saved the crew of nine men of the screw-collier Bessie, of Hayle; the Yarmouth and Caistor life-boats rescued the crews of twenty-two men of the brig Thoughtful, of Sunderland; the schooner George, of Goole, and the brig Tartar, of Sunderland; the Lowestoft life-boat rescued seven of the crew of the brig Osep, of Flume; the Peterhead life-boat rescued the crew of three men of the schooner Black Agnes, of South Shields; the Palling life-boat saved three men from the schooner Laurel, of Goole; and the Kinggate life-boat saved seven men from the brigantine Fre Maed, of Bergen. It was also reported that the Ramsgate life-boat, in conjunction with the steam-tug Aid, had rescued the crew of six men of the schooner Zephyr, of Banff. Rewards amounting to £150 were also granted to the crews of different life-boats of the institution, for putting off and rendering assistance to vessels in distress or for assembling during the late gales in readiness for service in the life-boats. The silver medal of the institution and £2 were voted to Evan Hughes, and £10 to his boat’s crew of five men, for putting off in Hughes’s fishing-boat and rescuing, at considerable risk of life, the crew of the ship Palinurus, of Liverpool, which was wrecked off Cymryan, on the Anglesey coast, on the 18th ult. Various other rewards were also granted to the crews of fishing and other boats for saving lives from different wrecks on the coast during the late gales. During the past month the institution had sent new life-boats to Hauxley, Newbiggin, Kingsdown, Courtown, and Worthing. The contributions of the readers of the *Quarterly Magazine* to the life-boat fund amounted to about £1400, being sufficient to defray the cost of three life-boats. The committee decided to place an additional life-boat at Southwold, Suffolk; and to form new life-boat stations at Hasborough, Norfolk, and at Cork Harbour. Payments amounting to upwards of £3200 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. It was stated that the cost of life-boats was being reduced in the Sunday-schools of London, Manchester, and Southport, Sir Roundell Palmer and Vice-Chancellor Sir Page Wood taking considerable interest in that collecting in the London Sunday-schools. The proceedings then closed.

FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE official yellow-book, containing the diplomatic correspondence of the French Government with foreign Powers, was laid on the table of the Corps Législatif on Monday.

The despatches exchanged between France and the United States on the subject of Mexico are in conformity with the declarations made in the Emperor’s speech at the opening of the Corps Législatif and in the exposé of the condition of the empire. A despatch from M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the Marquis de Montholon, dated Jan. 3, replying to a communication from Mr. Seward, dated Dec. 19, after announcing that this reply had been submitted to the Emperor, expresses the conviction “that the divergence of views between the two Cabinets is the result of an erroneous appreciation of the intentions of France.” M. Drouyn de Lhuys proceeds to state that France seeks the realisation of no ambitious ideas, and says—“Now that there is a regular Government in Mexico the legitimate object of our expedition will be attained. We are endeavouring, while satisfying our interests and our dignity, to make arrangements which will enable us to consider the mission of our army in Mexico as terminated.” Another despatch of M. Drouyn de Lhuys, dated Jan. 25, 1866, to the French Minister at Washington, relates a conversation of the former with Mr. Bigelow. On that occasion M. Drouyn de Lhuys declined all official controversy upon the measures taken by the Emperor Maximilian, stating that he could only receive Mr. Bigelow’s communications on that subject as simple information. This reservation established, the French Minister observed, in the course of conversation, that the measures pointed out were of a purely administrative order, and did not appear to him to constitute any of those exceptional derogations that might perhaps sometimes justify a Government in intervening in the interior affairs of a neighbouring State. He could not admit that the Federal Government, not wishing to recognise as legitimate the *de facto* Government of Maximilian, and considering it illusory to address itself to Juarez, had any ground to apply to France in order to escape from this embarrassment, and request explanations from her relative to the acts emanating from the sovereign authority of a foreign Government. “We return,” continues M. Drouyn de Lhuys, “to the principle of non-intervention; and, from the moment we accept it as our rule of conduct, our interest and honour require us to demand its equal application by all. Relying upon the equitable spirit of the Washington Cabinet, we expect from it the assurance that the American people will conform to the law of non-intervention which they invoke by maintaining a strict neutrality with regard to Mexico. When you shall have informed me of the resolution of the American Government in this matter I shall be in a position to acquaint you with the result of our negotiations with the Emperor Maximilian for the return of our troops.”

A despatch from Baron de Malaret, French Minister at Florence, dated the 2nd of January, 1866, describes an interview between his Excellency and General della Marmora relative to the loyal execution of the September Convention, upon which a doubt had been cast by the circular of Cardinal Antonelli. General della Marmora said that no one had the right to suppose that the Italian Government had any intention of failing to fulfil its engagements under the September Convention. Baron de Malaret stated that France, in signing the convention, intended to assure the co-existence in Italy of two distinct sovereignties—that of the Pope reduced to its present limits, and that of the kingdom of Italy.

THE HOUSELESS POOR OF LONDON.

MR. J. C. PARKINSON has an excellent article on the poor of London in the *Fortnightly Review*, from which we make a couple of extracts:—

BEFORE AND AFTER THE HOUSELESS POOR ACT.

Workhouses in certain localities had their fringes of rejected applicants for shelter sleeping on the pavement and doorsteps near them as regularly as the night came round; and everyone familiar with the aspect of the London streets knew where to find crowds of houseless men, women, and children at any hour of the twenty-four. Again and again was it insisted, in Parliament and by the press, that the condition of the destitute wanderer was a scandal on our common humanity; and, could a scapegoat have been found, it would have gone hardly with him. As it was, the Poor-Law Board was severely censured for not exercising powers it did not possess, and which many of its harshest critics would have been the first to deny to it; and the local guardians either protested they bore their full share of the common burden, or, resolutely declining to entertain the subject, allowed their censors to have their say unanswered. Such was the state of affairs when Mr. Villiers brought forward the Metropolitan Houseless Poor Act. This measure contained no new principle as to the imperative duty of relieving the poor, but it deprived the local guardians of one great temptation to parsimony, by making the sum expended for the accommodation of casual paupers chargeable on a common fund. The outlay for new wards, fittings, baths, food, superintendence, cleansing, and every other item would be repaid the parishes the tramp wards of which were certified by the metropolitan inspector as fitted for their purpose. This bill was first passed for twelve months, and has been subsequently made permanent. It has failed to my duty, acting in an unofficinal but public capacity, to watch its operation very closely; and, after a series of personal investigations, which have extended almost without intermission, from the date of its first obtaining the sanction of the House, and which are being continued at the present time, I feel confident that the good wrought by this measure has been incalculable, and that it rests with parochial guardians and the general public to extend that good indefinitely.

HOW CASUALS ARE RECLAIMED.

Not a night passes but, amid the foul scum of blackguardism and worthlessness which drifts into the casual ward, there is a percentage of undeserved misfortune and innocent helplessness. How much can be done towards distinguishing and assisting the latter is seen from the records of the refuges; how much more might be effected by an efficient staff of officers whose sole duty it should be to take charge of houseless wanderers, can only be understood by those who have mingled night after night with these poor people, have heard and tested their stories, and been at the pains of examining into their past and, in some instances, watching their future career. The casual poor are a distinct class, with subdivisions, nice points of distinction, peccadilloes, and idiosyncrasies, peculiar to their own. To deal with them effectively, to restore some to the ranks of honest labour, to cope with the abandoned profligacy and vicious indolence of others, and to mete out justice and ensure food and shelter to all, it is absolutely essential that the official machinery should be carefully adapted to its purpose. There are numberless subtle difficulties connected with the treatment of houseless wanderers, which can only be mastered by patient, unwearying effort and self-devotion. Many instances have occurred, within my knowledge, where a little painstaking and a few kind and judicious questions have resulted in the rescue of an abject wretch from a life of misery and shame, and in restoring him to one of decency and repute.

THE KEYS OF THE PROBATE OFFICE, DOCTORS’ COMMONS, were abstracted the other night, by some person unknown. Three or four days afterwards, on the dust being removed, the keys were found, as bright as ever, in the dustman’s cart. On the morning that the keys were found a large piece of charred wood was thrown into a kitchen of the office, on the basement, in which a quantity of clothes were drying. This would naturally lead to the conclusion that there was a design on the part of some one to make a bonfire of the wills and titles to property of half the people in the kingdom.

THE POLICE AND THE CASUALS.—On Tuesday, at the weekly meeting of the directors of the poor of St. Pancras, held at the Vestry Hall, Camden Town—Mr. Churchwarden Robson in the chair—a communication was read from the Poor-Law Board apprising them of an arrangement which had been entered into with Sir R. Mayne for the employment of the police as assistant relieving officers, so far as the admission nightly of casuals was concerned. The communication referred to the good effects which had resulted in the Poplar Union by the employment of the police in checking the admission of criminal vagrants; and, after stating that several of the metropolitan parishes were adopting the principle, desired to know if the guardians of St. Pancras were willing to accept the services of the police in the same way. The chairman said the Marylebone guardians had accepted the offices of the police to control the admission of casuals into their wards for three months as an experiment, and therefore he thought it desirable that the directors of St. Pancras should adopt a similar course; for, if they did not, the probable result would be that all the extreme roughs who were unwilling to pass the ordeal of examination by the police prior to admission to the casual ward of Marylebone would find their way to St. Pancras, and they must either find room for them in the house or lodge them out of it. Mr. Rose moved that the services of the police for the supervision of the vagrants be accepted for three months. Mr. Stockton seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Literature.

The Book of Were-Wolves; being an Account of a Terrible Superstition.
By SABINE BARING-GOULD, Author of "Iceland; its Scenes and Sagas," &c. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

This is a very curious book on a very curious subject. The origin and history of popular superstitions are ever interesting themes; and the superstition regarding were-wolves is not the least wonderful and widespread of popular delusions. To the elucidation of the theme Mr. Gould has brought to bear much erudition and research; and his intimate knowledge of the Icelandic sagas and of the literature and traditions of the north of Europe generally has been of infinite advantage to him. The popular notion about were-wolves was this—that certain persons, either of their own will or by the power of others (witches, warlocks, magicians, &c.), were transformed into wolves, and exhibited the ferocious characteristics of those animals, living as beasts of prey, killing and devouring human beings (especially children and young persons), and so on. The origin of this superstition, though to be found in nearly all parts of the world, is not difficult to trace: the name under which we know it, however, is derived from Scandinavia, and its origin is thus accounted for by our author:—

It seems probable that the verb signifying "to become a were-wolf" was first applied to those who wore the skins of savage animals and went about the country as freebooters; but that popular superstition soon invested them with supernatural powers, and they were supposed to assume the forms of the beasts in whose skins they were disguised. The verb then acquired the significance "to become a were-wolf, to change shape." It did not stop there, but went through another change of meaning, and was finally applied to those who were afflicted with paroxysms of madness or demoniacal possession.

This was not the only word connected with were-wolves which helped on the superstition. The word *vargr*, a wolf, had a double significance, which would be the means of originating many a were-wolf story. *Vargr* is the same as *u-vagr*, restless; *vagr* being the same as the Anglo-Saxon *eary*. *Vargr* had its double significance in Norse. It signified a wolf, and also a godless man. This *vargr* is the English *were*, in the word *were-wolf*, and the *vargr* or *vaur* in French. The Danish word for were-wolf is *vær-ulv*, and the Gothic *vaira-ulv*.

The history and character of the Scandinavian *berserkr* illustrate the theory of our author, who says:—

Among the old Norse it was the custom for certain warriors to dress in the skins of the beasts they had slain, and thus to give themselves an air of ferocity calculated to strike terror into the hearts of their foes.

The *berserkr* was an object of aversion and terror to the peaceful inhabitants of the land, his avocation being to challenge quiet county farmers to single combat. As the law of the land stood in Norway, a man who declined to accept a challenge forfeited all his possessions, even to the wife of his bosom, as a polltroon unworthy of the protection of the law, and every item of his property passed into the hands of the challenger. The *berserkr* accordingly had the unhappy man at his mercy. If he slew him the *berserkr's* possessions became his, and if the poor fellow declined to fight he lost all legal right to his inheritance. A *berserkr* would invite himself to any feast, and contribute his quota to the hilarity of the entertainment, by snapping the backbone, or cleaving the skull of some merry-maker who incurred his displeasure, or whom he might single out to murder, for no other reason than a desire to keep his hand in practice. It may well be imagined that popular superstition went along with the popular dread of these wolf-and-bear-skinned rovers, and that they were believed to be endowed with the force, as they certainly were with the ferocity, of the beasts whose skins they wore.

So that the whole superstition resolves itself somewhat into the story of the "Three Black Crows." Some men first dressed themselves in the skins of wild beasts, then acted very much like wild beasts, and ultimately were believed to be, and were called, wild beasts. As the wolf was the wild animal best known and most feared in Scandinavia—indeed, the word *wolf* signifies "wild"—it was naturally taken as the type of all wild beasts, and so came to give its name to those whose conduct made them a terror to their fellows. Select different words and ascribe different characteristics—but still retaining the elements of wildness and ferocity—according to the varied regions in which the superstition is found, and the explanation of Mr. Gould is applicable everywhere. To the student of popular superstitions and folk-lore the earlier chapters of the present work will be most interesting, much valuable information as to the origin of words and the affinity of languages being incidentally given; but to those readers who delight in "sensations" of the horrible kind, we commend the chapters in which are related were-wolf stories and instances of persons being possessed with a murder mania, notably, under the latter head, that of Marshal de Retz, the original of the popular story of "Bluebeard," which, however, has been singularly distorted, as Mr. Gould shows in the narrative he gives of the Marshal's career of blood, and which he derives from authentic sources.

The Gentle Life. Essays in the formation of Character. Second Series. London: Sampson Low and Co.

The original volume of "The Gentle Life" being in its sixth edition, a second series may almost be left to speak for itself. A proverb says "the younger brother the better gentleman;" and if this applies to books, the second series ought to teach a gentler life still. But the two will be found to be very much alike. The essays are on everyday, because universal, subjects. The style is plain and clear in general; but the author occasionally effects a quaintness peculiar to the literature of two centuries ago. He quotes liberally, and expects his readers to be familiar with all languages. There is a kind of order in the arrangement of the essays, for they begin with "On a certain Noble Animal" and "The Weaker Vessel," and the passions for good and for evil are descended upon until "Taking Leave and Going Away" winds up the collection. The volume will give delight to reflective readers, and none the less because of the writer's fearlessness in the way of hard hitting. He is so purely analytical that it is hard to say what he likes or dislikes. "Man delights not me, nor woman neither," may be his view; at all events, he never once stoops to flattery. The ladies especially must make up their minds to hear the truth. There should be no question between man and wife as to property—and yet ladies make a dreadful use of the "my." "My house, my servants, my garden," and so forth. Everybody knows this kind of lady, and also the kind of unhappy man who is blessed with her. Then, "fluent as they are of words, they have only one or two by which they designate a recalcitrant husband—he is a 'brute' and a 'monster.'" They are tyrants, and especially over their own sex, and are very sceptical as to the virtue of their own servants or of any woman in a lower position of life than themselves. They never originate—not slave emancipation, not the steam-engine. They can only follow. They write about their slavery and they enslave all women beneath them. They are in extremes in the case of bad passions; and, in short, it is necessary to keep a quick eye and a strong hand over "lovely woman." Is all this too severe? No. Calmly considered, it is truth, and truth which "the weaker vessel" should take to heart for the purpose of improvement. The common sense, combined with all proper reverence, shown in such papers as "The Foolish Passion" and "Partners for Life," will amuse and convince. The chapter on "Doing Good" is full of wholesome comment and advice, particularly on the point of doing good in the wrong place—that is, giving the charity to impostors and other improper objects. The story of the policeman is excellent. "Ah, Marm," said he, "what a hateful of harm you good old ladies do!"

Before closing a good and kindly volume, it seems as well to remind its author that the lines—

That which her slender waist confined
Shall now my joyful temples bind—

are not by Ben Jonson, but form part of Waller's celebrated lines on a girdle; and also to remind him that the word "misogamist" does not mean "woman-hater," but marriage-hater.

Captain Gronow's Last Recollections; being the Fourth and Final Series of his Reminiscences and Anecdotes. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

"Last Recollections" indeed; for while the work was passing through the press the author breathed his last. So we shall have no more of the interesting gossip and anecdotes with which Captain

Gronow has amused the reading public for some years past. Wonderful, indeed, must have been the experience, and still more wonderful the powers of memory, which could enable a gentleman, not a professional author, and not chronicling events with a view to book-making, to treasure up and recall incidents sufficient to fill four volumes. But this feat Captain Gronow accomplished, and has told his stories, too, in an elegant, gentlemanly style, which was one main reason probably of the acceptance they received from the public. This "last and final" series will not be less readily welcomed than its predecessors, as well on account of its own merits as because of the melancholy interest thrown around it by the death of the author. Captain Gronow's anecdotes generally relate to occurrences which he himself saw, and in not a few of which he was an actor; but some of them are also related on hearsay. We cannot, therefore, wonder if few have found admission which have already been told, and of different parties than those to whom the Captain ascribes them. For instance, the story related of Mr. Turberville at page 60, entitled "One way out of a dilemma," we have seen credited to more than one person. But then there may have been different "ugly families" and more than one person of the Turberville class. Our author, too, occasionally repeats himself, if not literally, at least in spirit; and, though we do not wish to be hypercritical with a writer now no more, we cannot help remarking that the stories told on pages 113 and 181, and entitled respectively "Incident at a Ball at the British Embassy, Paris, 1816," and "Lady Normanby's Ball at the British Embassy, Paris," have a very strong family likeness. On the whole, however, this volume of Captain Gronow's "Recollections" is equal to his previous efforts, and is certainly much more readable than other books of a like sort we have lately seen. A portrait of the gallant author is prefixed to the work.

The Times, the Telegraph, and Other Poems. By J. GODFREY SAXE. London: S. O. Beeton.

Mr. Beeton appears to be in a sportive mood. Here is a volume of respectable verse from across the Atlantic, to which he has put a title intended jocularly to mislead, and a preface teeming with wit nearly up to the mark of the burlesque partners, Messrs. Best and Bellingham. Mr. Saxe writes about the present time and the electric telegraph, and Mr. Beeton would have us think that a couple of London newspapers are intended. Again, Mr. Beeton's edition includes, "in the hope of securing English copyright, one note not by the editor of 'The Biglow Papers.'" This reference to a dispute with another publisher should not have been suffered to disfigure the titlepage; and, moreover, the attempt at copyright is absolute weakness, for the notes are of no value whatever, unless the reader is anxious to know that the Rev. Sydney Smith was an "English author and wit, lately deceased." Sydney Smith happens to have been dead about twenty years.

Mr. Saxe's poems seem to be founded on the comedy of Hood, Locker, and Oliver Holmes. His serious attempts are dull, his lightness generally pleasing. His satire is only braining with my lady's fan, but his cheerfulness and humour are honest and amusing. By-the-by, when Mr. Saxe quotes he should quote correctly. Lee's line is

When Greeks joined Greeks then was the tag of war,
and not that mistake which everybody thinks he can make with impunity.

The Brown Book for 1866. London: Saunders, Otley, and Co. The "Brown Book" is a useful manual for London and its environs. The first section, the "Handy List," shows the nearest post-office, money-order office, cab-stand, police, telegraph, and commissionaire stations, fire-engines and escapes, hospitals, &c., in upwards of 1000 of the principal streets and places of the metropolis. Another division is devoted to a list of the leading hotels, boarding-houses, and dining-rooms of London; but this section is confessedly still imperfect, though much attention has been bestowed upon it. Other divisions are concerned with tutors, governesses, and schools; the charities of the metropolis; scientific, religious, artistic, literary, and other societies; amusements, sights, &c.; and the metropolitan railway system. Altogether, the work is a most useful guide to London, and will be valuable both to the stranger and the resident in the modern Babel. Efforts are being made year by year to render it more complete; and in the present issue we observe several improvements on those which have preceded it. But what can be the reason why the Parcels Delivery Company decline to have the addresses of their agents and receiving-houses published? We should think they would have been the first to embrace the opportunity of furnishing such information to the public.

Poems. By the Rev. E. S. WILSHIRE. London: Hatchard and Co.

This little volume of "Poems"—we accept the author's description—is by the Rev. E. S. Wilshire, Incumbent of East Somerset, Cape of Good Hope, and has been published in order to aid an effort now being made there to provide additional church accommodation, which, it seems, is greatly needed. So praiseworthy an object would disarm criticism, even were the contents of the book less meritorious than they are. We therefore commend both the book and its object to the religious portion of the community, as well as to all others who take an interest in the diffusion of Christian knowledge in the destitute parts of the earth.

British Association, 1865: Report of the Proceedings at the Birmingham Meeting. Carefully Collated and Revised by the Various Speakers. London: Robert Hardwicke.

A large and closely-printed but cheap volume, the title of which speaks for itself. If such meetings are worthy of being held, and the world seems to think they are, the results are surely worthy of the library form, and of not being left to the desultory chances of newspaper reports. Indulgence is claimed for the present attempt, on the ground that the idea of collection was not entertained until late, when many speakers had vanished far away, on business or on pleasure bent, and their assistance could not be obtained. In future, arrangements will be made for each speaker to revise his labours before the meeting breaks up, and while the discussion is fresh in his memory.

POETS.

Duchess Agnes, &c. By ISA CRAIG. Second Edition. London: Strahan.

Verse New and Old. By ARTHUR MUNBY. London: Bell and Daldy. *Idylls of the Hearth.* By JOSEPH VEREY. London: Aylott and Son. *Elijah: A Poem.* By G. WASHINGTON MOON, Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, Author of "The Dean's English." London: Hatchard and Co.

Beauties of Tropical Scenery, &c. By R. N. DUNBAR, Author of "The Nuptials of Barcelona." Third Edition. London: Hardwicke.

We owe something like an apology to Miss Craig and Mr. Munby for allowing necessities of space to compel us to place them in a miscellaneous list, for they are both capable of standing alone, and might form topics by themselves. Mr. Munby writes with great finish and delicacy, sketches a scene well, has some real humour as well as real tenderness, and produces, not seldom, verse which is entitled, distinctively, to the name of poetry. For instance, "Doris" is a very charming little pastoral, and we quote three verses:—

DORIS.

I sat with Doris, the shepherd-maiden;
Her crook was laden with wreathed flowers;
I sat and wood her, through sunlight wheeling,
And shadows stealing, for hours and hours.

And she, my Doris, whose lap incloses
Wild summer-trees of faint perfume,
The while I used her, kept bush'd and hearken'd,
Till shades had darken'd from gloss to gloom.

She touch'd my shoulder with fearful finger;
She said, "We linger, we must not stay:
My flock's in danger, my sheep will wander;
Behold them yonder, how far they stray!"

Again, we like "Mary Ann;" and a little more art would have made it a poem that gave unmixed pleasure:—

MARY ANN.

She is right weary of her days,

[Her long lone days of dusty kneeling;

And yet "the thoughts o' you," she says,

"Has took away my tired feeling."

"For when I've done the room," she says,

"And clean'd it all from floor to ceiling,

A-leaving on my broom," she says,

"I do have such a tired feeling."

"I'll ax my Missie leave, I says;

I canna work; my heart wants healing.

She give it me, and smiles and says,

"Well, that'll cure your tired feeling."

"And so it will! For days and days

I'm strong again, and fit for knelling:

The thoughts o' seeing you," she says,

"Has took away my tired feeling."

This is not to be called vulgar, and it has a sincere pathos of its own; but yet it goes almost too near triviality of expression. The poem is in Mr. Munby's hands: he must know what to do with such verses quite as well as any critic can tell him, and they have merit enough to be worth the labour. The more serious poems contain a great many felicities of expression; but they are not so individual, either in thought or manner, as to suggest the idea that the author would in any case (e.g., without models) have been a poet. On the whole, however, the volume is quite exceptionally good, and Mr. Munby may claim a retired niche in the great temple. A word how rarely to be spoken!

But we have to speak it again in favour of Miss Craig. She, too, writes genuine poetry; though she does not polish and finish like Mr. Munby. This is, no doubt, because she has something else to do; and to the same cause—an over-active life—we attribute the frequent presence in her writing of a sort of social-spiritual-sanitary way of looking at things and telling a story, which is, it is true, no more unwelcome than some of Wordsworth; but how unwelcome that is! How much more like lecturing than singing; and how obstinately it refuses to run into verse! But Miss Craig can write real poetry, as we may see in every page of her volume. Here is an example:—

WIND AND STARS.

The stars are shining fixt and bright,
I stand upon the windy height,
Alone with sorrow and the night.

O stars so high, from earth apart,
Ye are the hopes that stirred my heart;

O wind, its beating wings thou art,
The wind may rave, the starry spheres

Unheeding shine, nor moved by tears
Nor shaken into trembling tears.

O hush, wild heart, regarded not;

Sink to the level of thy lot,

In pity sink, and be forgot.

And here is another

SONG.

Yellow, yellow leaves!	Yellow, yellow leaves!
All grown pale with sighing	Falling, falling, falling;
For the sweet days dead,	Death is best when hope
For the sad days dying:	There is no recalling:
Yellow, yellow leaves,	Yet, O yellow leaves,
How this parting grieves!	How the parting grieves!

Scattered throughout the pages are gleams of true poetic vision and poetic expression, so that it is a book to be possessed and cherished, in spite of the want of finish which is so frequent a drawback upon the reader's pleasure. There is something intensely saddening about indications of latent power such as Miss Craig's poems exhibit. We have here, plain to quick and patient eyes, a fine, real gift of song, not thin, not shallow, not wanting in anything which produces welcome poetry of a pleasant order, but which evidently wants the opportunities of leisure. We do not doubt its making itself felt under the actual conditions of the case, but how much better pleased we should be if there were the leisure!

These two volumes, we repeat, are, distinctively, the work of poets. Of the other three the merit is about equal. Mr. Verey has a certain lyrical facility which ought to enable him to do much better. Mr. Dunbar writes with a sort of rhetorical grace which, with an eye for beauty, makes him readable by the lower forms of the great school of poetry. Mr. Moon, also, is a rhetorician in rhyme, but he is windy and pedantic. He is further from producing "the real article" than any one else on our list: and we must have it decisively understood that Miss Craig and Mr. Munby are the only two writers now before our readers who produce poetry. Mr. Verey, Mr. Dunbar, and Mr. Moon, write more or less meritorious rhymes. Mr. Verey has freedom of versification, and sometimes comes irritatingly close to good models: he ought to produce poetry. Mr. Dunbar's workmanship is very fair, and now and then he writes a charming line.—

The glistening palms look wet with light—

so that some of us can turn over his volume with pleasure; but we don't care to remember it. As for Mr. Moon, he is a sad mistake. Neither of these three writers has at all reached the region in which critics such as Mr. Bagehot, Mr. Lewes, or the late Mr. Brimley would even dispute about them. And yet that is the kind of critic that would the soonest and the most heartily recognise any note of decisive melody. The linnet and the robin are welcome, as well as the nightingale. But there is simply no hope for writers of verse who cannot see that such mere snatches of song as we have quoted above are worth more than a Great-Northern-Railway-stationful of windy versification, even though it were as correct as Mr. Dunbar's, as lively as Mr. Verey's, and as emphatic as Mr. Moon's.

THE PUBLISHED CORRESPONDENCE OF NAPOLEON I. now extends to nineteen volumes, and is brought down to 1810. It is expected that the remaining documents will give at least seven or eight other volumes, which will all be printed in two years.

SIR EDWIN LANDSEER was last week elected President of the Royal Academy, in the place of Sir C. Eastlake. Sir Edwin, however, declined the honour, on account of ill-health, but a week was allowed him in which to reconsider his decision. On Thursday Sir Edwin renewed his refusal, and Mr. Grant, the portrait-painter, was elected by twenty-three out of twenty-nine votes.

AGES OF PUBLIC MEN.—The oldest Duke is the Duke of Northumberland, aged 87; the youngest, the Duke of Norfolk, aged 18. The oldest Marquis, the Marquis of Westmeath, aged 80; the youngest, the Marquis of Ely, aged 16. The oldest Earl, the Earl of Onslow, aged 88; the youngest, the Earl of Charleville, aged 13. The oldest Viscount, Viscount Gough, aged 86; the youngest, Viscount Downe, aged 21. The oldest Baron, Lord Brougham, aged 87; the youngest, Lord Rodney, aged 8. The oldest member of the Privy Council is Lord Brougham, aged 87; the youngest, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, aged 24. The oldest member of the House of Commons is Sir William Vernon, member for Waterford, aged 21. The oldest Judge in England is the Right Hon. Stephen Lushington, aged 83; the youngest, Sir J. F. Wilde, aged 49. The oldest Judge in Ireland, the Right Hon. Thomas Letroy, Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, aged 89; the youngest, Justice Keogh, aged 48. The oldest Scotch Lord of Session, the Right Hon. Duncan M'Neill, Lord Justice General, aged 72; the youngest, David Muir, Lord Muir, aged 61. The oldest Archbishop, the Archbishop of Canterbury, aged 71; the youngest, Archbishop of York, aged 46. The oldest Bishop, the Bishop of Exeter, aged 88; the youngest, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, aged 46. The oldest Baronet, Sir Stephen L. Hammick, aged 88; the youngest, Sir Henry Hayes Lawrence, aged 1 year. The oldest civil and military knight is General Sir Arthur B. Clinton, aged 93; the youngest, Sir Charles T. Bright, aged 33.—From *Who's Who for 1866*.

**THE BUXTON
MEMORIAL DRINKING-FOUNTAIN,
ST. MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER.**

This fountain, which is being erected at the corner of Great George-street, at the sole expense of Charles Buxton, Esq., M.P., is dedicated by him to the memory of his father, Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart., and those who with him advocated in Parliament the emancipation of the slaves in the British colonies, and whose names will be inscribed upon some part of this memorial.

The base is an octagonal structure about 12 ft. in diameter, having open arches on the eight sides, supported on clustered shafts of polished Devonshire marble around a large central shaft with four massive granite basins. The whole of the stonework and sculpture has been executed by Mr. Earp, of Lambeth. Surmounting the pinnacles at the angles of the octagon will be eight figures in bronze, representing different rulers of England. The Britons are represented by Caractacus, the Romans by Constantine, the Danes by Canute, the Saxons by Alfred, the Normans by William the Conqueror, &c.; ending with Victoria. Hitherto, in the covering of spires lead or slate have been almost exclusively used; the fault of lead is its black and sombre hue when exposed to the atmosphere of London, as illustrated by the spires of Wren's churches; while slate, from its flatness, is wanting in shadow, and produces an effect of thinness. These objections will be obviated by the use of plaques of iron with raised patterns, giving shadow, while colour will be imparted by the surface being enamelled. The enamel being composed of materials resisting the acid contained in the smoky atmosphere, a permanent mode of colouring is obtained at the same time that the iron is preserved from oxidation. A step in advance has been taken by Skidmore's Art Manufactures and Constructive Iron Company by the introduction of this new feature in constructive appliances. We understand they have erected furnaces for ornamental enamelling for railway roofs, interiors of domes, &c., so as to produce a light durable covering with ornamental colour.

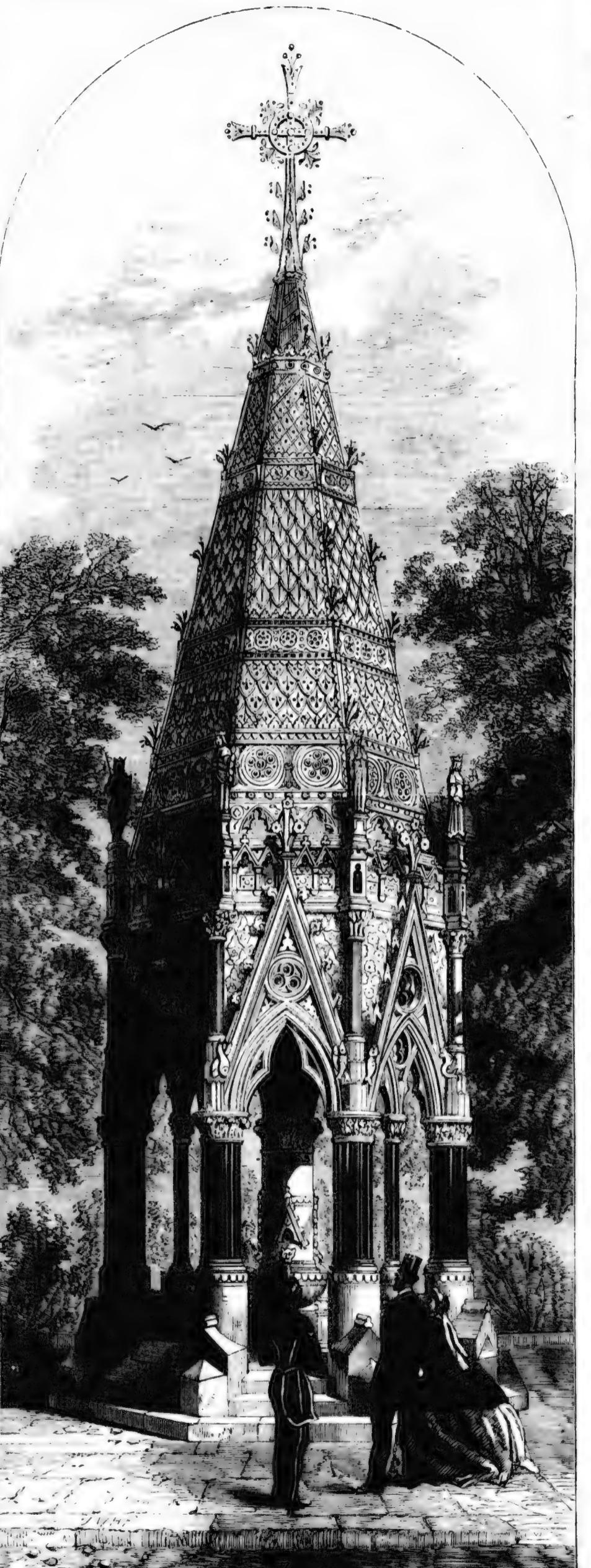
The whole has been executed from the designs of the architect, Mr. S. S. Teulon, and when completed will have cost upwards of £1200, exclusive of the water supply, which is undertaken by the Metropolitan Drinking-Fountain Association. The total height from the pavement to the summit of the cross will be 45 ft.

MADRID AND ITS PEOPLE.

ANYONE writing about Madrid resembles the visitor to that wonderful city in at least one respect—that is to say, in the extreme difficulty he finds to get away from the Puerta del Sol. Just as all the streets seem to lead thither, so whatever subject you may mention is pretty certain to conduct you, somehow or other, to the Gate of the Sun at last. There are a few words it be said about the Prado, however; for it is here that one gets a sight of the people in quite another aspect, and here, too, the itinerants are a very remarkable part of the population. The central walk of this most celebrated promenade is, or was, called El Salon, and extends from the Carrera de San Jerónimo to the Calle de Alcalá, and is nearly 1500 ft. long and 200 ft. wide, its shady alleys on each side being flanked by a road for horses and carriages. The entire extent of the Prado from the Convent of Atocha to the Portello de Recoletos is 9650 ft., the greater part of it being planted with trees, and seats being placed at convenient distances. So much for mere measurement; but the greater attractions of the Prado are, first, its eight fine fountains; and, next, the cafés, where the exhausted loungers sit to eat ice and to gaze upon the brilliant scene presented by the *beau monde* of Madrid in full promenade, which makes even El Salón (merely a great gravelled path, bordered with so-so trees, and without a patch of green or garden) a thing of beauty and a joy for a couple of hours.

It is, of course, on occasion of a bull-fight in the Plaza de Toros, which is only a short distance from the Puerta de Alcalá, that the Prado is seen in its greatest excitement; but at ordinary times the English visitor will be agreeably surprised at the number of smart carriages, good horses, and neat liveries. In fact, every wealthy Spaniard has a wonderful taste for a first-rate "turn-out," and many of the Madrilenes are capital judges of horseflesh.

It is in the afternoon, when all Madrid has enjoyed its siesta, that the scene in the Prado is most striking. Then, cavaliers and cavalières handsomely dressed and on horseback; señoritas, señoras, and duenas, in open carriages; and veiled and mantled pedestrians walking beneath the trees, combine to make up the show. Of course the upper class in Madrid wear Paris fashions; but the women of the middle class still retain the national costume, that which nothing can be more picturesque. Black is the prevailing hue in a Spanish woman's dress—black relieved by a little bit of brilliant colour, which makes it all the more effective. Both the mantilla and the veil are always black, except on very special occasions; and, as a writer in *The Argosy*, who has just given us an interesting description of Madrid, says, "The delicate texture of the lace and the graceful folds into which it can be draped are thoroughly appreciated by the Spanish damsel, who knows exactly when to tone down the flashes of her eye by its intercession, and when to discover the brilliancy of her rich and transparent complexion by gathering



THE BUXTON MEMORIAL, WESTMINSTER.—(S. S. TEULON, ESQ., DESIGNER.)

the elaborate reticulation as a frame around her face, instead of spreading it as a curtain before it. With her veil and her fan, and a natural damask rose behind her ear, mingled in the rich coil of her silky tresses, a Spanish woman is armed with irresistible weapons. If equipped for Cupid's warfare, she is not less proof against the attacks of Phobus, who 'woos in vain to spoil that cheek'; and, despising the protecting shelter deemed indispensable in less ardent climes, she trusts to the skilful use of the *abanico* to supply all the intervention she needs."

Although the Madrilenes are just beginning to understand the use of water-pipes, most of the streets are about in the condition which marked those of London above a century ago; and there is little chance of escaping a wetting during the rainy season in consequence of the water-spouts which project from the eaves of the queer old houses, especially if one ventures out at night. It is at night, however, that Madrid is most picture-que, with its deep, dim doorways, where stalls are held for the sale of horchata or limonata. Sometimes the great vestibules of old deserted houses are used as temporary shops, where tables are placed in the paved courtyards for the sale of all kinds of things, including milk in tumblers. Then, too, the beggars come out in force, crouching in the porches of the old churches or standing in the shadow of a wall, where they rattle their tin money-boxes or twang a guitar as an accompaniment to their moaning "Por Dios serás." Begging in Spain is a recognised profession, and the mendicants are duly licensed and must be qualified practitioners, with infirmities to show. A very good authority once told Mr. Walter Thornbury that he had seen a beggar plying his vocation on horseback.

Yes; the streets of Madrid at night are suddenly enlivened (?) by the beggars and the watchmen (*serenos*), who cry the hour, give warning of thieves or fire, and interfere with belated serenaders or eccentric revellers. In case of fire they know in what parish the calamity has occurred by the number of strokes sounded on the alarm-bell, each parish having its own regulation number. But we are getting away from the itinerant vendors, who are to be seen not at night but in the early part of the day, often at dawn, when the street criers are absolutely bewildering, especially in those streets which, like the Calle de la Abada, are half markets, and are planted with rows of stalls, at each of which a vendor speaks in every intonation and inflection of voluble Spanish. Coffee-stalls; melon-sellers; poultry merchants driving their turkeys for sale through the streets; fish in osier baskets, and packed in ice with leaves of the fan palm; vendors of goats' milk; newsmen, and even sellers of lottery-tickets, who are mostly blind, add their contributions to the general babel. Not the least important of the street merchants is the seller of brooms or whisks, who looks, in his queerly-shaped cap, something like a sweep on May Day. Three brooms are essential in most Spanish houses and shops, for dust and flies are plentiful, and every morning the dustmen come with a mule-drawn waggon to fetch the early sweepings which the good housewives have collected in a basket. Brooms, mats, and baskets are, in fact, a great staple of the itinerary of Madrid. The retailers of cooling drinks are amongst the most clamorous, and they generally add to their cry "fosferos," for lighting those cigars or cigaritos which are the chief luxuries of Spaniards. It may be mentioned that in Madrid few people make their own cigarettes, though most of us have seen them deftly inclosing the shreds of dry, fragrant tobacco in their thin envelope, when we have happened to meet them in other countries. Cigaritos are amongst the most prominent articles of merchandise, and until lately few even of the common people smoked pipes. There is, however, a pipe-seller in Madrid, and we publish a portrait of him. It will be seen that he has been so under the influence of the innovation that he no longer retains the faintest symptom of the national costume, and might be a dissipated, "broken-down mechanic," standing in the roadway of the New-cut, rather than a loiterer in the Montera.

Very different is that picturesque tinker, national from the fluffy ball upon his hat brim to the very tassel of his leggings, who pierces the air with his long-drawn cry, and somehow reminds one of the gypsies and Mr. George Borrow. Different, too, is that fruit-seller who so oddly combines the national costume *netherwards*, with the cap of an Irish hodman and a baker's basket, in which he probably carries maize for sale to other customers when his stock of fruit runs short. Figs, green and fresh, or sweet and purple, eaten with the dew upon them in early morning, are the delight of epicures in fruit. Grapes, however, are the staple of the itinerant fruit-seller—grapes and those wondrous melons, some of them large enough for the coach of a full-sized Cinderella. But then there are pines and pomegranates—those dusky-brown bulbs, with their earth-coloured rinds and open tuft, leading to that strange crimson sour pulp and the white seeds within. It is wonderful what a part fruit and milk bear in the daily diet of the Madrilenes. A man there will even sip milk with his cigar, and many a sturdy fellow will hew out a dinner for himself from a segment of melon and a bunch of that excellent close-grained bread for which Spain is famous. But then it must be remembered that the climate there demands temperance. Even the fiery wines, which we speak of as Spanish, are unknown

M A D R I D S T R E E T C H A R A C T E R S.



BROOM-MERCHANT.



PIPESELLER.



TRAVELLING TINKER.



FRUITSELLER.

except as being prepared for the British market, or amongst very few people who have perverted the national taste for the thin, weak, and dry sherry of Cadiz. As to lemonade horchata (a sort of nut-flavoured drink) and agua de cebada (or barley-water flavoured with fruit or syrup) they are the common beverages of the people—next to water itself.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

It is reported on good authority that the Royal English Opera Company will, for the summer season, charge the same prices as the two Italian theatres. We sincerely hope it may get them; but a guinea is a great deal to give for a stall, and we are afraid most of the guineas so spent will find their way to the treasury of the Royal Italian Opera or of Her Majesty's Theatre. Unfortunately, two of our very best English singers, Mr. Sims Reeves and Mr. Santley, have nothing to do with the English Opera. The production, too, of English operatic works has, apparently, come to an end. Now that Mr. Wallace is dead, and that Mr. Balfe has, seemingly, given up writing, there is no English composer who can be counted on for even a *probably* successful work. That plenty of inevitably unsuccessful ones are quite ready to be brought out we have not a doubt. The best thing the English Opera Company can do is to depend chiefly on translations of foreign operas; many of which, in spite of their popularity abroad, are quite unknown in England.

The present winter season, so fatal to opera, has been distinguished by some excellent performances of sacred music. Both our oratorio societies have, as a matter of course, given "The Messiah." The "Elijah" has been played twice, "Judas Maccabaeus" once, by the National Choral Society; while the Sacred Harmonic Society, besides the "oratorio of oratorios," has offered to its subscribers Handel's "Samson," Mozart's "Requiem," and Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise."

The manner in which "Samson" was executed at the last meeting of the Sacred Harmonic Society, with Miss Banks and Madame, Sington-Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Weiss, and Mr. Patey in the principal parts, was thoroughly satisfactory. Mr. Reeves, whose singing is as variable as the English climate, to the influence of which he must be peculiarly susceptible, was in admirable voice. Never did he deliver more pathetically than on this occasion the celebrated "Total Eclipse" which, according to a well-known anecdote, always moved Handel to tears, though, according to another and more probable version of the story, it was the audience who were so deeply affected on hearing it sung in presence of the unhappy composer, whose misfortune it so strikingly recalled. The success of a concert may generally be reckoned by the number of encores. But, at the concerts of the Sacred Harmonic Society neither encores nor marks of approbation of any kind are (as a rule) permitted, and the audience, when the performance pleases them, have only one legitimate way of testifying their satisfaction—by remaining in their places until its conclusion. On the "Samson" night there was an additional inducement for remaining, inasmuch as "Let the bright Seraphim," one of the finest, and certainly one of the most attractive, pieces in the oratorio, occurs almost at the end of the third part; and when the final chorus was performed, there was still scarcely a vacant place in the immense hall, which had been crowded throughout the evening. The pure, clear tones of Miss Banks, the soprano of the evening, were heard to great advantage in the air just mentioned. The contralto music was assigned to Madame, Sington-Dolby. The bass music was divided between Mr. Patey and Mr. Weiss. Mr. Costa conducted the orchestra, which, admirable throughout, was particularly effective in the "Dead March."

The National Choral Society had a grand field-day on Wednesday, when "Judas Maccabaeus" was produced. The solo-singing—by Miss Louise Pyne, Mr. Leigh Wilson, and Miss Lucy Franklin—was all that could be desired; but the chorus was by no means perfect. This association, like the Sacred Harmonic Society, thinks too much of numbers as an element in chorus-singing, and too little of precision. Instead of following as closely as possible in the steps of the older institution, the directors of the National Choral Society would have done well to aim at a high standard of execution on a small scale, seeing that to attain it on a large one is out of the question. The great merit of this association, in our eyes, is that it has brought forward two very promising solo-singers, who, but for the National Choral Society, would have had no opportunity of appearing in oratorio music at all. We mean, of course, Miss Lucy Franklin, the contralto, and Mr. Leigh Wilson, the tenor. "Judas Maccabaeus" is generally regarded as Handel's greatest work after "The Messiah" and "Israel in Egypt," though it is well known that Handel himself ranked "Samson" before it. It certainly does not exhibit the sustained power manifested in the greatest of all Handel's productions, but the choruses are magnificent throughout; and, though the third part of the oratorio is less interesting than the two preceding ones, it contains the most popular piece—"See, the conquering hero comes!"—that Handel ever wrote.

The French Emperor's remarks on the law of coalitions, and the "moderation" with which it is taken advantage of by those chiefly interested, will remind musicians of the recent strike at the French Opera, where the members of the orchestra, finding their demands for an increase of salary rejected, are said to have shown their "moderation" by playing everything in so subdued a tone that it could be scarcely heard. We cannot believe this story, though we have met with it in the Paris letters of more than one of our daily journals. An oboe player when he shrieks out a note an octave too high is said to *canarder*; and what the inexperienced oboe player occasionally does by accident some members of the Paris orchestra must, we fancy, have been doing wilfully, and for the sake of mystifying our Paris correspondents. The last time we saw this curious operatic canard on the wing was in the columns of the *Standard*.

A concert for the benefit of University College Hospital, and under the patronage of her Majesty, is to be given, at St. James's Hall, on Tuesday, the 13th inst. The performances will include Gounod's new sacred drama, "Tobias," which, with other works by the same composer, will be given, for the first time in any country. The vocalists engaged are Madame, Lemmens-Sherrington, Madame, Rudersdorf, Miss Whytock; Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Patey, and Mr. Cummings. A full orchestra will also be present. Mr. Benedict will be the conductor.

On Friday week a concert was given, at St. James's Hall, at which Miss Wolfe—a pupil, we believe, of Madame, Sington-Dolby—made her first appearance in public. Miss Wolfe has a mezzo-soprano voice of fine quality and extensive compass. She has evidently been well taught; and, while she executes difficult passages with neatness and finish, she sings simple, expressive music with a great deal of natural feeling.

THE HOUSELESS POOR ACT.—Sir Richard Mayne, in orders which he has issued for the guidance of those police officers whose services as assistant relieving officers in the carrying out of the above Act may be accepted by the guardians, as advised by the Poor-Law Board, makes the following regulations:—When applicants found to be destitute wayfarers, wanderers, or foundlings apply at the police-station, they are to have orders for relief on the master of the workhouse, until the numbers for which the wards are certified have been sent; and all applicants above those numbers are to be referred to the relieving officer, who is to make arrangements for their reception in a registered common lodging-house. When any suspicion may arise that the applicants are not without means to procure food and shelter they are to be searched—females by the police female searcher. Explanation of why a person is refused an order is to be entered in a registry-book of the case. In no case is an order to be given to a person resident within the parish or union, as such applicant is not a wayfarer or wanderer, and is to be referred to the relieving officer. Any person applying a second time for an order is to be carefully questioned and examined to ascertain whether he is a wanderer or wayfarer, and when an order is refused the applicant is to be referred to the relieving officer. An order is to be given in every case to a foundling. No payment is to be given to the inspectors for these services; but, should the guardians desire to give them a moderate gratuity, after experience has been obtained of the mode in which the duty has been performed, they will be allowed to receive it. The charges for searching and other incidental expenses are to be made to the guardians quarterly; and a report is to be made each week of the number of orders granted and of the circumstances of cases brought before the officers.

THE LOSS OF THE LONDON STEAMER.

OFFICIAL INQUIRY.

An inquiry, directed by the Board of Trade, into the cause of the loss of the London steamer was commenced at the Greenwich Police Court, on Monday, before Mr. Traill, the stipendiary magistrate, assisted by Captain Baker and Captain Harris, nautical assessors.

Mr. O'Dowd (barrister) appeared for the Board of Trade; Mr. Talfourd Salter (barrister) for the friends of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and children, lost in the vessel.

Mr. O'Dowd gave a sketch of the evidence intended to be produced. The value of the cargo, he said, was estimated at £124,000. The number of officers and crew was eighty-three, including fifteen foreigners. The number of passengers embarked at London and Gravesend was 125, and at Plymouth fifty-five. Messrs. Wigram and Co. owned fifty-six shares in the vessel; Messrs. Alport and Morgan, shipbrokers, two each; and Captain Martin, her commander, four shares. The dead-weight cargo consisted of 247 tons of iron plates, bars, and sheet iron, &c., fitted in closely, and occupying a space of 50 ft. There were also about fourteen tons of hardware and agricultural implements. The quantity of coal for the engines on leaving Plymouth was 580 tons; there were fifteen tons more for the galley. The gross tonnage was 1752 tons, and the registered tonnage 1428 tons. The length of the ship was 267 ft., the breadth 75 ft., and the depth 24 ft. The engines were of 200-horse power. The alleged disproportion of beam to length was greater in many other steam-ships. On leaving Gravesend the London drew 19 ft. 9 in. forward, and 20 ft. 9 in. aft. The ship went down Channel against strong head winds and took shelter at Spithead. She put in at Plymouth to embark passengers, and on her departure the weather was described as moderate, the wind blowing lightly from the northward, and little or no sea running. Mr. O'Dowd entered into details of the sailing of the ship until the catastrophe occurred, and witnesses were then called.

Mr. Gladstone, surveyor to the Board of Trade and senior surveyor to the port of London, said that the materials of which the London was constructed were of the best quality. It appeared to him that the skylight of the engine hatchway—plate glass, with an iron grating—was sufficiently secure. There was accommodation for 400 passengers. The last survey of the vessel he made was in December last, and he was of opinion that she was as fine a ship as ever left the port of London. She had seven boats.

Robert Taplin, engineer surveyor to the Board of Trade, deposed that he had surveyed the engines and machinery of the London three times between October, 1864, and December, 1865. He granted the owners a declaration of the ship's efficiency. The working of the engines would not have been impeded had there been a flat covering under the skylight. Such a covering would have impeded the draught, but this might have been provided against by artificial means.—George Barber, a shipwright surveyor to the Board of Trade, gave some evidence as to the most efficient means of providing against high seas getting down the engine hatchway of screw-steams. He spoke principally from his experience in yards on the Clyde, where an arrangement, which he described to the Court, was being carried out by the shipbuilders. The investigation was adjourned.

The inquiry into the loss of the London was continued on Tuesday. Several witnesses were examined as to the strength and construction of the ship and the power of her engines. Some of the gentlemen who gave evidence expressed a strong opinion that the engine-room hatchway of the London was as fully protected as was necessary, and that some of the suggestions which were made for further guards were not practicable.

The inquiry was resumed at Greenwich on Wednesday. The evidence was still confined to the condition of the ship when she left port. One thing was stated which deserved notice. It was that the vessel, though carrying some iron, had nothing like the quantity which has been mentioned.

EXTRAORDINARY SCENE AT A MESMERIC ENTERTAINMENT.

An extraordinary scene took place, on Friday evening week, at a mesmeric entertainment held at the Assembly Room, Carmarthen, where the editor of one of the local papers was brought to feel the powers of mesmerism in a way he little expected. Miss Poole, a well-known lecturer on electro-biology and mesmerism, had been lecturing and performing to crowded audiences at the above room during the week; and on Friday, being the day the local papers are issued, one of them contained the following paragraph:—

"MESMERISM.—This science is too dry to go down the throats even of the lower classes without a bit of fat in the shape of gifts and prizes. Miss Poole has been experimenting here this week with good pecuniary success, the bait taking remarkably well. The lady, for aught we know, may be an accomplished electro-biologist; but we have no hesitation in saying that her 'subjects' were wide awake when they were supposed to be in the embrace of a god more powerful than Somnus and Morpheus combined. If Miss Poole denies this, will she allow the writer to apply a very simple test to her subjects after she has had them under her control? This would be the means of convincing or of undeceiving the public."

On that evening Miss Poole commented upon the above critique, and took a copy of the *Reporter* from her pocket and tore it into shreds before the audience. She then had several young men of the town upon the platform, who volunteered to be mesmerised; and the whole of them, with few exceptions, were experimented upon with success, and appeared to be completely at her bidding. While this was going on, the editor of the above newspaper entered the room, and, being recognised by the doorkeeper, was ordered out; but he refused to leave. The doorkeeper then appealed to Miss Poole if he should send for a policeman to turn him out, and she replied, "Let him alone; I have a policeman of my own. We will have some fun directly." And addressing about eight of the young men on whom she had been operating, but who were then apparently awake, she said, "There is a person in this audience whom I want you to bring upon this platform; go and fetch him." At this command the whole of them bounded off the platform and ran towards the individual referred to, who was pointed out to them by the doorkeeper, and they laid hold of him and carried him by main force to the platform, the audience cheering and laughing heartily, little anticipating what would follow. But matters soon took a serious turn; for as soon as he was brought near the platform, Miss Poole, whose coolness and self-possession had evidently deserted her, seized hold of him by the hair of his head and dragged him upon the platform, the young men still keeping fast hold of him, and there he lay for a few moments, with the enraged lady pulling his hair in a furious manner, the audience yelling and hooting at her; but their yells and hoots she heeded not. The editor at last gained his feet, but his revenger still clung tenaciously to him till some parties in the audience came to his rescue. The confusion was now intense, and amidst the hisses and the hootings of the audience Miss Poole proceeded with her performance.

Summons have been issued against Miss Poole and her coadjutors who joined in the affray. The affair has created quite a sensation throughout the town, the gentleman attacked being highly respected by all classes.

INVASION OF HAMPSTEAD-HEATH.—Two railway companies have entered the field to invade Hampstead-heath. The North Metropolitan Railway proposes to make an open cutting through the heath at a depth of 54 ft. to 56 ft. below the surface, thus curtailing its area and severing it from Parliament-hill for about three quarters of a mile. The Metropolitan and St. John's-wood Railway extension to Finchley is also proposed to cross the heath for a length of about three-quarters of a mile, partly on an embankment, partly in cutting, and for about 250 yards in tunnel, which will also materially curtail the area of the heath and interfere with the access from one part to the other of this much frequented spot.

DREADFUL SCENE IN A LUNATIC ASYLUM.—A terrible scene occurred, a few days ago, in the lunatic asylum of St. Pierre, at Marseilles. Three patients in a state of furious madness determined to murder their attendants. To effect their purpose they wrenched away some iron bars placed round a stove, and with them fell on the first wardman they saw and beat him about the head till he expired. Another keeper, hearing his companion's cries, came to see what was the matter, and was immediately attacked and likewise killed. The three madmen then took the keys from the pockets of their victims and entered the adjoining wards to murder the other attendants, but taking no notice of the patients. The wardsmen, however, escaped, and stopped the progress of the madmen by fastening the door on the outside. Meanwhile the whole establishment was alarmed, and the officials, after a desperate resistance, succeeded in overpowering the three murderers, without receiving any serious injury.

PROPOSED BREAKWATER FOR TORBAY.—A numerously-attended and influential meeting of the inhabitants of Torquay was held on Monday, at the Townhall—Mr. A. B. Sheppard in the chair—to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament and the Board of Trade with reference to the construction of a breakwater in Torbay. Sir John Bowring, Sir Lawrence Palk, M.P.; Admiral Sherrington, and other gentlemen of position in the vicinity, were present. Speeches were delivered by the chairman, Mr. Belfield, Admiral Sherrington, Mr. Lakeman, Sir L. Palk, and others strongly urging the necessity of constructing an efficient breakwater at the mouth of Torbay, in order to afford a secure shelter for vessels of every land, and thereby preventing such terrible disasters as those which occurred a fortnight since. Petitions to Parliament and a memorial to the Board of Trade were agreed to, Sir L. Palk promising to bring the subject under the attention of the Government, and remarking that they were fortunate in having at the head of the Admiralty a noble Duke, a resident of that neighbourhood, who knew the bay well, and who could speak personally of the facilities it contained. A committee was appointed to take steps to carry out the resolution agreed to by the meeting.

DOUBLE SUICIDE AT PADDINGTON.

ON Monday evening Dr. Lankester, the Coroner for West Middlesex, opened an inquiry relative to the deaths of Ferdinand Caluwe and his mother, a French gentleman and lady, who committed suicide, at Norfolk-road, Westbourne-grove, on Thursday week, under peculiarly painful circumstances. The first witness called was Mr. Thomas Edward Rean, of Clapham-rise, an acquaintance of the deceased M. Caluwe, and who stated that he knew the deceased at Margate and at Chelsea. The deceased, he said, spoke of himself as a political refugee, and always represented himself as not being under pecuniary difficulties; but there was, to witness, something mysterious about deceased's circumstances. He was of a desponding nature, and though he had never mentioned anything about committing suicide, yet there were reasons, to witness's mind, for fearing something of the sort would take place. The great object of desire with deceased was that he might be able to return to France, and the obstacles appeared to be political reasons, for he gave witness to understand that if he could represent his case to the Emperor that object would be gained. He never spoke of himself as being in pecuniary difficulties; but he often said he was in want of friends. Witness introduced him to several persons, and was the means of his being introduced to the Swiss Consul and other gentlemen. In answer to the Coroner, the witness said he never heard deceased say he was a friend to the Consul-General of France, and the Coroner stated that he had received a letter from the Consul-General of France denying that deceased was a political refugee or that he was a friend of his. Dr. Robert Butler, a priest of the Roman Catholic Church, stated that he had known deceased for a short time, and he knew his mother. They told him they were destitute, and Ferdinand wanted to obtain some employment as a teacher or correspondent. From conversation witness had with Ferdinand he came to the conclusion that he was partially insane, for he many times spoke of himself as followed by spies, and solemnly asserted his innocence of crimes which he said some would accuse him of. He spoke of being in England in consequence of some law-suit in the French courts. Witness assisted them with money several times. Madame Caluwe seemed much depressed, and the cause of that depression she explained as being the misfortunes of her son. M. Caluwe had stated that he had been in England four or five years. They applied through witness to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and obtained some relief, as they did from another society. He was offered his expenses back to France by one of the societies, but he said he could not go back. His mother was present when this conversation as to his going back to France occurred, and she never contradicted him in his strange statements. Deceased, witness went on to say, called upon him at one time, and got into a state of great excitement about nothing, and at another time he came and said there was a prayer-book placed near him in church, and he being sure it was placed there to tempt him to steal it, he said to witness that he might bear testimony that he had no intention of stealing it. He was also under a delusion that his landlady was paid by spies to find out something against him. Mrs. Caroline Connor, No. 2, Norfolk-road, Westbourne-grove, deposed that deceased and his mother had lodged with her from the 28th of October last. As they had lived near, no references were required of them. She took M. Caluwe to be a gentleman, and, indeed, he told her something to that effect, for he said that he had estates in France, but his affairs were in difficulty. Very few people called upon them, and he had a dread of people calling. Dr. Butler and another gentleman were the only people who used to call. From the general conversation of deceased she thought he was not right in his mind, as he was particularly excited at times. She knew that they sometimes were without food, and she sent up food to them, for which deceased always expressed the warmest gratitude. The rent he agreed to pay was 17s. a week for a few weeks, when it was to be £1, and when they committed suicide they owed nine weeks' rent. Sometimes they only had a pennyworth of boiled carrots for three or four days—that was some weeks ago; and since that time they had had nothing but what witness gave them. The money found in the room (5s. 11d.) was part of the money which witness had given for a pawn ticket. A fortnight since witness gave them warning to leave her apartments, saying it was of no use their stopping, for she had to pay her rent; and when that time passed she gave them more time. On the 25th he told her that he was going to Paris that night, but that he could not pay for a time, and she agreed to allow him to go without paying. In the evening, at about seven, witness went to their apartments to assist them to prepare for their journey; but Madame came to the door, and gave witness to understand that Monsieur was asleep and could not be disturbed. She signified what witness thought a desire to be called at half-past eight the next morning, and went again into the room, one of the three they rented. An hour after witness heard a fall. Witness called them in the morning at the time she thought they wanted to be called; but, as she did not obtain any answer, she sent for a policeman, who found them both dead. Police Constable Kirk deposed to finding the bodies of the deceased—that of the lady on the floor, attached by a rope round the neck to a cornice-pole, which had given way; and that of the man also attached to the cornice-pole in the same way. In the room two sheets were found, both marked in ink, one "For myself," the other "For my son." Letters addressed to various persons were likewise found in the room, as well as some papers written for the landlady, desiring that the bodies should be buried as they were, and leaving to her pawn-tickets and other property for the kindness she had shown them. Mr. J. S. Beale, divisional surgeon of police, deposed to being called on the morning of the 26th, and finding that the deceased had been dead about twelve or fourteen hours. Death, he said, had resulted from suffocation by hanging. The Coroner here said he would appeal to the jury as to whether they thought they had enough evidence to convince them that these two persons had committed suicide while in an unsound state of mind. The law was, that if anyone consented to the death of another person, whether by suicide or other means, he was guilty of wilful murder; and if the jury thought these persons had consented to each other's death with a knowledge of what they were doing, the verdict would be *felo de se*, and they would be buried by torchlight without the rites of the Church. It was to be considered, however, whether the son was not in an unsound state of mind and induced his mother to commit this act, or whether they were not both of unsound mind. If the jury desired to have further evidence he would adjourn the case, and keep back his warrant for the burial. The jury unanimously agreed that they would adjourn, in order to have a translation read to them of certain letters written the night before the act was committed, and they were formally bound over to appear in three days to further consider the case.

THE LATE MR. COBDEN.—On Saturday last an interesting ceremony took place at Verviers, in Belgium. The Belgian Society of Political Economy presented to the Chamber of Commerce of that thriving manufacturing town a bust of Richard Cobden, as a symbol of their appreciation of the services rendered to the cause of free trade by the Verviers merchants and manufacturers. These gentleman were the principal supporters of the free-trade movement in Belgium. Gentlemen from England, Ireland, France, Germany, Spain, and other countries attended.

THE MID-LONDON RAILWAY IN HOLBORN.—A committee of the Holborn Board of Works has made a report in which it is stated that the Mid-London Railway is a very important line as affecting the interests of the inhabitants of the district, and that efforts should be made to obtain the introduction of clauses in the bill requiring the company to construct the railway so as to admit of the houses on the south side of Holborn being rebuilt to a new and improved line of frontage, to be agreed upon by the surveyor to the board and the engineer to the company, and also limiting the period within which it shall be lawful to execute the works of construction. It is understood that the company will not object to the clauses in question; but, in order to obtain *locus standi* before the committee, the board have resolved to petition Parliament against the scheme.

ANOTHER DONATION FROM MR. PEABODY.—The public have but lately been reminded of Mr. Peabody's gift of £150,000 to the poor of London, and have been informed by the report of the trustees of the incalculable benefits which have already been derived from the partial application of this munificence. They will be in the better position, therefore, to appreciate an announcement which we are enabled to make, that this generous act of benevolence has, with still greater generosity, been repeated. Mr. Peabody has placed in the hands of the trustees an additional sum of £100,000 for the same purpose as the former endowment. It will be pardonable if we are unable to find adequate terms in which to express our acknowledgments of this noble act of charity. The amount of the gift, though not, perhaps, its most admirable characteristic, is of itself sufficient to render any expressions of gratitude insignificant. With the former endowment, the donation now amounts to a quarter of a million. Such a gift from one person is, probably, the most splendid act of munificence on record. But the manner of this gift is even more admirable than its magnitude, and is, in a still greater degree, beyond any expression of our thanks. It is not one of those posthumous bequests in which, however praiseworthy they may be, a man only surrenders his property for the benefit of others when he can no longer retain it for his own gratification. This gift is made during the life of the donor; and, that he may increase the happiness of others, Mr. Peabody has denied to himself the use and the pleasure of a quarter of a million of money. It is true, indeed, that such charity brings with it a satisfaction far greater than any pleasure which is to be derived from the mere possession of riches, and Mr. Peabody, we may be sure, will not be without this recompense for his benevolence. But it is not every man who is capable of appreciating this generous pleasure, and it is one of the highest virtues of humanity deliberately to prefer the satisfaction of such charity to the reasonable enjoyments which attend the possession of great wealth. When to these considerations it is added that the boon is spontaneously conferred upon the poor of this metropolis by one who, though he has resided among us for many years, is not himself an Englishman nor bound to us by any peculiar ties, we appear to see every circumstance that could heighten the benevolence of the gift and overpass our gratitude. All England, moreover, rejoices in such a benefit conferred upon the poor of London; and it is the profound feeling of every Englishman which will be thus moved by Mr. Peabody's generosity.—*Times.*

LAW AND CRIME.

MR. JOEL EMANUEL, a law student, found a purse in a carriage belonging to the Great Western Railway company, and, upon arriving at a station, gave information of the fact, together with his card, to the station-master. He subsequently received a letter from the company's solicitors, who represented to him that it was important that property found upon the line should be handed to the directors, who had specially provided a room for its reception. To this Mr. Emanuel sent the following very comical reply:—

Gentlemen,—In reply to your favour of yesterday, I certainly did find a purse in one of the carriages of the Great Western Railway Company, and I certainly mean to keep it until I find the rightful owner; then I shall have great pleasure in returning it. I am at a loss to conceive by what right the railway company claim to be entitled to the custody of the purse. I claim my authority to retain it under the old classical motto of "Finding's keeping" (I forget at this moment whether from Horace or Virgil). It is very kind of the railway company to specially provide an office for lost property, and reflects credit upon the benevolence and disinterestedness of the directors. Actuated by their example, I have a room in my house which I intend to devote to the same purpose; and I think the purse will be just as comfortable in my room as in theirs.

The company hereupon sued Mr. Emanuel in the Marylebone County Court for £50 damages. The amount appears to have been only guessed at as the highest of which the Court could take cognisance. On the part of the plaintiffs, it was urged that they were liable for property lost in their carriages by passengers, and therefore that they were entitled to bring an action against any person who deprived them of the custody of lost articles. Mr. Emanuel argued his own case, and maintained that, as finder, he could defend his retaining the property against all but the rightful owner. The Judge expressed his obligation to both parties for their elaborate review of the authorities on each side, and reserved his judgment. It does not appear to have been suggested that railway companies have a statutory power of making their own by-laws for regulation of their passengers. This may be an important point, as, if a by-law of the company directs the deposit of found property with the officials, Mr. Emanuel may be directed to deliver up the purse for proper inquiry as to its owner, without prejudice to his right as finder should such inquiry not be successful.

The Court of Common Pleas decided upon a question as to the exemption from toll of a non-commissioned officer of yeomanry cavalry that he was not entitled to such exemption when driving in a gig to his duty. He would have been exempt if riding, or if he had been a volunteer. But the Court held that a member of yeomanry cavalry was not a volunteer within the meaning of the Volunteers' Act.

Since the revelations in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of the inner life of a casual ward, the columns of our contemporaries have been filled with exposures of and comments upon the practical working of the poor laws. All appear to tend one way—namely, to the demolition of the power of the present class of parochial authorities. For years past we have pointed out in these columns that the persons who seek parochial office are not of the class in whose hands any such trust should be reposed. It is curious to collate Mr. Dickens's early novel of "Oliver Twist" with recent revelations of the parochial system and of its supporters. The book now seems one of a past age in nearly all its relations. Bill Sykes, the burglar, carries a bludgeon, which no modern London thief ever does. The costumes, as drawn by Mr. George Cruikshank, are those of a former generation. Fang, the magistrate, is a type of a kind of justice long extinct. Field-lane was pulled down years ago. There is no thief nowadays who can gain a living by stealing pocket-handkerchiefs, as in the old days when folk used to put such articles in outside coat-pockets. And yet the sketches of the parish guardians might have been drawn yesterday. To listen even now to their own representations one might imagine them to be a class of disinterested persons, patriotically sacrificing time and attention to the protection of the rights of the poor on the one hand and of the ratepayers on the other. Practically, they are known to be divisible into two species only. In the first place, there are the speculators, who regard the vestry-hall as a kind of parish discussion club; and, in the second, there are a number of vulgar shopkeepers, who think it an honour to take part in a parochial parliament, and whose sole endeavour is to spare pence from the rates or to creep into favour with their betters. It is absurd to talk of such people as representatives. To test the truth of this suggestion, we would ask that a return should be made of the number of parishioners (in each parish) who vote upon the elections of vestrymen. We are confident that their number, compared with that of the qualified electors who stand aloof from parish politics, would be found ridiculously small. The vulgarity and assumption of these petty Jacks-in-office is scarcely conceivable, since the journals have left off reporting the wretched squabbles which among them take the place of debates. If Parliament will only have the courage to overthrow the principle of local self-government in respect to the poor, in spite of noisy opposition, the measure will be the greatest and most popular reform of modern days. Here are the authorities at almost every workhouse cogitating as to the means of repressing a rapidly increasing offence known as "tearing-up." One union clothes the offenders in coal-sacks, another lets them lie naked until they work to earn the value of the meanest possible attire. Others send them before the magistrates and obtain sentences of hard labour. None of them have the humanity or sense to question whether the "tearing up" may not have a rational cause. A poor wretch finds himself covered, not clothed, with a heap of dirty rags, offensive to health and to the senses, infested with vermin, insufficient for warmth, and scarcely sufficient for common decency. He argues that clothes are necessities of life as much as food or shelter, which the parish is bound to provide, and, being unable to obtain a new "rig" by other means, he destroys his old garments, which, in the interests of the community, should have been destroyed long before. What is to be done with him for this? Some wiseacre has actually written to Alderman Sir J. Musgrave, who, for his part, has had the hardihood to read the precious communication from the Bench, recommending that the poor wretch should be placed naked in an open yard and pumped upon from a fire-engine for half an hour! Here is charity for

1866! Swift, in bitter satire, proposed that the children of the poor should be butchered as delicate food for the wealthy. In like strain, in the old English ballad of "Lord Delaware," his Lordship asks of the King:—

Give me all the poor men we've starving in this land,
And, without delay, I'll hire me to Lincolnshire
To sow hemp-seed and flax-seed, and hang them all there;
For with hempen cord it's better to stop each poor man's
breath,
Than with famine you should see your subjects starve to
death.

These proposals are humane in comparison with that of the Alderman's correspondent. Only imagine one of those miserable outcasts, so well described by the writer of the "Night in a Workhouse" as coughing the whole night through, punished in the manner suggested for braving the consequences of making an end of a bundle of vile, reeking rags! There are probably cases of wanton destruction of clothing; but these must be exceptional, and could be dealt with like any other crime. Let the poor be furnished with at least moderately decent garments before we talk of half-drowning them for destroying the filthy things they have.

POLICE.

THE RULES OF THE WORKHOUSE.—John Coglan, an able-bodied man, was charged with receiving parochial relief and refusing to work.

Mr. Tubbs, assistant-overseer of Marylebone, said, since Monday last we have admitted nearly 900 casuals. After a conference with the master, we determined to issue tickets, under the following rules, to all casuals who apply for relief:—

"Rules and Regulations to be Observed by the Paupers employed at Stonebreaking:—The ticket received by the pauper at the workhouse will have his age and residence marked thereon. Paupers will be allowed to earn 1s. 3d. per day and no more; but in case of young men under nineteen years of age the amount not to exceed 1s. per day. The price of breaking Gloucester stones to be 2s. per yard, and for breaking granite 1s. 3d. per yard. The stones to be broken and screened to pattern size. No more than one member of a family shall be employed in the stoneyard the same time. All persons employed at stonebreaking, after four weeks' employment, to be dismissed the yard. The paupers to remain in the stoneyard the whole of the day (except at meal times), unless present before half-past eight in the morning, for the purpose of seeking other employment, by permission or to the satisfaction of the surveyor or the foreman of the yard. The stones to be wheeled into the berth before nine o'clock in the morning, the sledging of the stones to be performed between nine and twelve o'clock, and the breaking with the small hammers and wheeling out in the afternoon. The sledges to be given out at nine o'clock and to be returned at twelve. The small hammers to be given out at one o'clock, and to be returned before measuring; each man to return his own hammers. Each person to remain at his particular berth during the day, except when wheeling in or out his stock of stone. No smoking allowed in the yard. The whole of the persons employed at stonebreaking to be under the orders of the foreman of the stoneyard. Any pauper not conforming to the rules of the yard, or in any way misconducting himself, will be dismissed, and notice of such dismissal, with the cause thereof, will be immediately forwarded to the assistant overseer. Any pauper absenting himself from the yard for more than one day without some reason satisfactory to the surveyor or to the foreman of the yard will not be re-employed without a fresh ticket from the workhouse."

These rules seemed to have had effect, for the number applying for admission had fallen off during the last few nights from 140 or 150 to about seventy per night. The superintendent of the casual ward said—On Saturday night the prisoner applied for admission. I told him if I took him in it would be on the understanding that he would be charged for refusing to maintain himself, work having been provided for him for that purpose. I told him he had been supplied with stone tickets. He had been admitted night after night for the last month. On Saturday I gave him a ticket for the stoneyard, and went to see him after dinner, when I found he had broken half a yard of stone. I told him he was getting on very well, when he said I had deceived him. He said he would not work so hard again, for he could earn more in the streets. At night when he came I asked him what he had done with 1s. 3d., and he said he had spent it in drink to nourish himself.

Prisoner.—I earned 1s. 1d., and that would not make a living for me.

Mr. Knox.—I will not say it would make you a very splendid living, but it would find you in some food and a lodging. There is steady work for you at 1s. 3d. per day. Mr. Tubbs.—He can do it in less than half a day, and the tickets are renewed at the end of each month.

Mr. Knox.—I don't see why a great fellow like this should be kept upon the rates and taxes. He must have one month's hard labour.

LADY WALROND AT BRIGHTON.—Lady Walrond sued through her husband, at the County Court, Brighton, to recover the sum of £50 for trespass. The case excited much interest, and was tried before a jury. Mr. Mills appeared for plaintiff, a gentleman residing at Collumpton, Devonshire; and Mr. Somers Clarke appeared for defendant, a house-agent, on the Marine-parade.

The cause of action was that the defendant unlawfully entered the house of plaintiff, 16, Portland-place, and made a distress for rent. On the 1st of November last Lady Walrond and her daughter called at defendant's office, and asked to be shown a list of houses to be let; and Lady Walrond decided on taking 16, Portland-place, for at least three months certain. Subsequently defendant, who had to let the house in question for Colonel Fraser, sent to the York Hotel and informed her Ladyship that she could have the house at the rate of four guineas per week for the first eight weeks, and three guineas per week for the remainder of the period. She consented, and accordingly an agreement was drawn up, which plaintiff signed. An inventory was taken in the usual way by plaintiff's agent and defendant's clerk, and ultimately plaintiff and her daughter took possession of the house on Saturday, Nov. 4 last. After they had been in the house about a week, a man called on the 13th of November and demanded a week's rent, adding that if her Ladyship did not immediately pay him a week's rent—viz., four guineas, he would levy on her goods. This so surprised her that she immediately sent a servant to Mr. Parsons to ask what business the man had in her house? Soon after the servant had started her Ladyship also determined to go to Mr. Parsons, and she accordingly went and overtook the servant on the Marine-parade. Arrived at Mr. Parsons's office, she asked him why the man had come to her house? Mr. Parsons replied that he intended to make it a weekly tenancy.

This, Mr. Mills contended, was a trespass committed on the part of defendant, for, having agreed to let plaintiff the house for a certain period, and also agreed to take the rent in two instalments, he had no business to send and demand rent after plaintiff and her daughter had been there only a week; and the question for the jury was, whether defendant was entitled to distract by his own arbitrary will and pleasure?

Mr. Mills called Lady Walrond, who corroborated his statement, and added that the man who had entered the house behaved in a very impudent manner; and when she asked him by what right he had come to distract, he replied that he had got a warrant from Parsons and Son, which authorised him; and, as she put out her hand to receive, as she thought, the warrant, the man caught hold of her arm, and spilled a cup of coffee, which she was drinking, over her dress. When she returned from defendant's office, another man had put in an appearance, and the two remained there, notwithstanding her entreaties for them to go, until seven o'clock in the evening. About that time Mr. King, solicitor, had been sent for, and, the facts having been explained to him, he objected to the legality of paying the £4 4s. to the man, because her Lady-

ship had entered into an agreement to pay the rent in two instalments. Subsequently, however, he advised plaintiff to pay the £4 4s., under protest. She did as advised, and brought an action in the county court to recover the £4 4s., and obtained the verdict.

Mr. Clarke, the solicitor for the defence, admitted that that sum was refunded, and cross-examined her Ladyship for the defence, and elicited from her that she went and fetched the tongs to turn out one of the men that were in the house; but, in reply to another question, she denied that she gave the same man a "dig" in the ribs as she passed him. Neither had she had constant applications for debts, but she admitted having paid debts twice with dishonoured cheques.

A discussion was raised as to whether Mr. Clarke had a right to put such questions. Mr. Clarke submitted that he had, for the whole case would turn on these points.

Mr. Clarke then proceeded to ask Lady Walrond if she had not been in Lewes Gaol for a debt; and whether that was not the reason that she could not attend on the last Court day?

Plaintiff replied that she had been confined there for that reason for a fortnight, and only left on Sunday last.

The jury returned a verdict for plaintiff—£10 damages. Upon hearing the decision of the jury, plaintiff's daughter exclaimed that it was not the money that they cared for, but to "stamp" Mr. Parsons.

Mr. Clarke—We have stamped you; for no tradesman will trust you.

HOW THE CHINESE MAKE GREEN TEA.—The origin of the mysterious term "barbarian," so generally used by the Chinese when referring to the English, is curiously revealed in the following extract. Messrs. Joseph Travers and Sons, the eminent colonial merchants, in one of their recent circulars to the London and country grocery trade, write:—"Some may not be aware of the fact that the tea-shrub is a single species, and that from the same tree black or green tea might be made. The difference between the two, black and green, depends solely on the manipulation and the processes to which the leaves are subjected during the period of manufacture. In the case of *black tea*, the leaves are allowed to lie and ferment for ten or twelve hours to darken them; they are then highly fired. Those leaves which are intended to be converted into *green tea* are roasted slightly immediately after they are gathered, and quickly dried after they have undergone the rolling process. In order to make green tea uniform in appearance and of a particular bluish hue, a colouring composed of finely-powdered gypsum and prussian blue is laid on the leaves during the last process of roasting. This adulteration the Chinese do not hesitate to carry out on a systematic plan and on a most extensive scale. During this part of the operation," says Mr. Fortune, "the hands of the workmen were quite blue. I could not help thinking that if any green-tea drinkers had been present during the operation their taste would have been corrected, and, I may be allowed to add, improved. It seems perfectly ridiculous that a civilised people should prefer these dyed teas to those of a natural green. No wonder that the Chinese consider the natives of the West to be a race of 'barbarians'!" Mr. Fortune says "that half a pound of paint or colouring material is mixed with each hundred pounds of green tea. The Chinese readily acknowledge the superiority of green, uncoloured, but plead, in excuse for their adulterations, the wilful preference of the foreign merchant. We need hardly add that the Chinese are far too sensible to touch these dyed teas for their own consumption."

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

RATHER large sums in gold having been withdrawn from the Bank of England for export to the United States, it has been observed that the value of the dollar has had a downward tendency. Consols for Money, have marked sed 1s. Ditto for the next Account, 57 1/2; Reduced and New Three per Cent, 56 1/2; Exchequer Bills, 56 1/2 to 2s. ditto. Bank Stock has marked 2s. 10d. to 2s. 11d.

Indian Securities have moved off heavily. India Stock, 268 to 211; Dito Five per Cent, 102 1/2; Rupee Paper, 100 1/2 to 101 and 107 1/2 to 108; India Bonds, 10s. premium.

There has been a considerable increase in the demand for money, and the lowest rates for the best bills are as follow:—

Thirty Days' Bills 71 per cent.

Sixty Days' 71 ..

Three Months' 8 ..

Four Months' 8 ..

Six Months' 9 ..

In the Stock Exchange no advances can be had under 6s 7 per cent.

The silver market is firm, at the late rise in the quotations. In the exchange no material alteration has taken place.

The following return shows the state of the note circulation in the United Kingdom during the four weeks ending Jan. 6, 1866:—

Bank of England £20,788,333

Private Banks 2,734,345

Joint-stock Banks 2,734,345

Scotland 4,639,561

Ireland 6,434,757

Total £37,287,250

Compared with the corresponding period last year, the above figures show an increase of £984,207 in the circulation of notes in England, and an increase of £2,032,708 in the circulation of the United Kingdom.

Most foreign securities have continued dull. The principal changes as regards prices are in Greek and Mexican, both of which exhibit a decline in value from last week. The latter has sold as low as 20s. The *Scipio* Government Railways Loan is quoted at 1s 4d to 1s prem. Brazilian Four-and-a-Half per Cent have marked 1s 4d to 1s 3d. Portuguese Two-and-a-Half per Cent are marked 1s 4d to 1s 3d. Egyptian Seven per Cent, 92 1/2; Dito Three per Cent, 46; Russian Two per Cent, 90; Dito, 1864, 92 1/2; Greek, 131; Spanish Six per Cent, 92 1/2; Dito, 1862, 90; Dito Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 89 1/2; Spanish Three per Cent, 46; Dito, Deferred, 34 1/2; Dito, Passive, 25 1/2; Dito Certificates, 13 1/2; Turkish Six per Cent, 1854, 9 1/2; Dito, 1858, 70 1/2; Dito, 1864, 68; Dito Five per Cent, 1865, 39 1/2; and Venezuela Six per Cent, 31.

Joint-stock Bank Shares have been in limited request, and the quotations have had a drooping tendency. Agre and Masterman's have realised 25; Alliance, 26 1/2; Australia, 72; Bank of British Columbia, 21 1/2; Bank of Egypt, 34; Bank of London, 146; Bank of Victoria, 42; Bank of New Zealand, 17 1/2; Chartered of India, Australia, and China, 13; Dito, 12 1/2; Land Mortgage of India, Australia, and China, 13; Dito, 12 1/2; Land and Building, 18 1/2; London and South America, 17 1/2; London and Brazil, 18 1/2; London and South Africa, 16 1/2; London and Westminster, 96 1/2; Midland, 24; Oriental, 51; Standard of British South Africa, 41 1/2; Union of Australia, 51; and Union of London, 51.

Colonial Government Securities have been dealt in to a very moderate extent. Canada Six per Cent have realised 93 1/2; Dito, Five per Cent, 80; New Brunswick Six per Cent, 93 1/2; New South Wales Five per Cent, 98 1/2; Queensland Six per Cent, 100 1/2; and Victoria Six per Cent, 104.

The Miscellaneous Market has ruled quiet. Atlanta Telegraph shares have been sold at 2 1/2; Ceylon Company, 94; City of London Real Property, 4; City Offices, 6; Credit Foncier and Mobiliar of England, 5 1/2; Credit Foncier, 5 1/2; East India and Irrigation and Canal, 6; East India, 12; Egyptian Commercial and Industrial, 16; Egyptian, 11; French, 16; Imperial, 76; Imperial Continental, 49; London, 1864, 92 1/2; London and Gambia, 12; London and Brazil, 18 1/2; London and South America, 17 1/2; London and West Indies, 110; West Middlesex, 111; West ex div.; Liverpool Waterworks, 350; Liverpool and London and Globe, 123; London, 48. The Railway Share Market has been very inactive, and the quotations have somewhat declined from last week.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—The arrival of English wheat up to our market this week have been very moderate, and greatly out of condition. The few samples on offer have changed hands at full quotations; but low and damp qualities have commanded very little attention, as irregular prices. There has been a fair sale for most descriptions of foreign wheat, some of which has been rather limited in quantity. Floating crops and grain have continued dull. Flax has sold at full currencies, but graining and distilling sorts have commanded very little attention. The malt trade has continued in a sluggish state, at late rates. Oat, beans, and peas, as well as flour, have ruled about stationary.

ENGLISH.—Wheat, 40s to 56s; oats, 19s to 30s; rye, 26s to 28s; beans, 29s to 50s; peas, 35s to 42s per quarter; flour, 22s to 28s per cwt. 100 lb.

CATTLE.—The supplies have been limited, and the trade generally has ruled active, on higher terms.—Beef, from 5s. 6d. to 5s. 12d.; mutton, 5s. to 6s. 6d.; veal, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d.; pork, 4s. to 5s. 6d. to sink the offal.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.—These markets have been well supplied with meat, and sales have proceeded steadily.

TURKEY.—The supplies on offer are by no means excessive.

SUGAR.—The market is steady, and late rates are well supported.

COFFEE.—Very full prices have been realised for all descriptions, at extreme rates. The stock in warehouse amounts to 13,021 ton, against 11,192 tons last year.

RICE.—All kinds move off slowly, at last week's prices. Stock, 34,000 tons, against 52,291 tons in 1855.

PROVISIONS.—Only a moderate business is doing in Irish butter.

Prices, however, are supported. There is a good demand for foreign articles, at extreme rates. The bacon market is flat, at barely late carriage. Hams and lard are firm in price, but other provisions are somewhat heavy.

TALLOW.—P.Y.L.—on the spot, is selling at 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per cwt. Stock, 45,309 casks, against 43,229 ditto last year. Rough fat, 2s. 4d. per lb.

OILS.—Linseed oil, on the spot, is selling at £36 10s. to £35 15s. per ton. Rape is quoted at £52 10s. to £56 10s.; cocoanut, £45 to £52; and fine palm, £41 10s.

SPRITS.—There is no change to notice in the value of rum, for which article the demand is inactive. Brandy and grain spirits are steady, at late rates.

HAY.—HAY.—Trotton—Meadow hay, £4 4s. to £5 15s.; clover, £3 10s. to £4; straw, £1 16s. to £2 4s. per load.

COALS.—Hutton, 18s.; Hartlepool, 17s.; Keloe, 16s. 6d.; Eden Main, 16s. 6d.; South Keloe, 17s.; West Hartley, 16s. 3d.; Holywell, 17s. 3d. per ton.

STODARE.—325th Representation.—
THEATRE OF MYSTERY, EGYPTIAN HALL.—Marvels in Magic and Ventriloquism, as performed by command of Colonel Simonds before her Majesty the Queen and the Royal family, at Windsor Castle, Tuesday Evening, Nov. 21, 1855. The marvellous Sphinx, the Birth of Flower Trees, and Stodare's celebrated Indian Bowls Test, as only performed by him Every Evening, 8 P.M.; Wednesday and Saturday, at Three, Stalls, at Mitchell's Old Bond-street and Box-office, Egyptian Hall, Admission, 1s; Stalls, 2s; almost miraculous.—Vide "Times," April 14, 1855.

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